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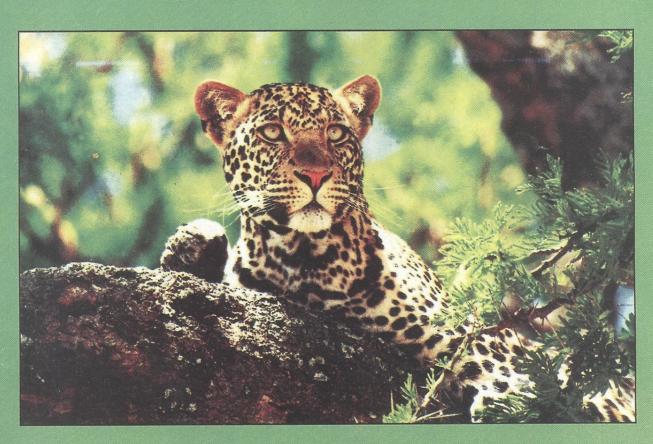


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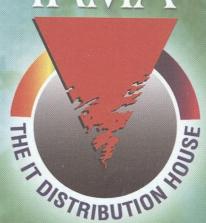
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### FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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#### **COVER PICTURE**

The Africa Federation Chairman addressing Tanga Jamaat, one of the Jamaats visited during the first 100 days in office,

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The views expressed in the *Federation Samachar* are not necessarily those of the Africa Federation or the Editorial Board.

#### **Our Regional Organisations**

The World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities **Husein Shia Islamic Centre** Woodlane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LQ, UK email: worldfed@dircon.co.uk President: Alhaj Hasnain Walji

The Federation of K.S.I. Jamaats of Africa P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania email: federation@raha.com Chairman: Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji

Consiel Regional des KSI Jamates de L'Ocean Indien P.O. Box 4098, Antananarivo Chairman: Alhaj Roshan Jameel

**NASIMCO** 9000 Bathurst Street, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 8A7 email: nasimco@idirect.com President: Noorzehra Ebrahim

The Council of European **Jamaats** 4 Burton Street, Peterborough, PE1 5HD, UK President: Alhaj Jaffer Dharamsi

The Council of Gujarat P.O. Box 16, Council House, Huseini Chowk, Voravad, Mahuva 364290 District Bhavnagar, Gujarat. email: gujcon@varunnet.com

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### From the Editor's Desk

### Community needs identity cards for synchronized planning

The community is facing an identity crisis not only in Africa but around the world. Our statistics tell us that we are about 125,000 Khoja Shias around the world but strangely this figure has remained more or less stagnant in our official statistics over the years.

It is unlikely that we have stopped increasing in numbers. rather it is the lack of proper statistics and a proper count that is forcing our leaders to compromise on our population figures when planning for the long term.

Our community has grown worldwide and with this growth various Jamaats are offering extra amenities and facilities to members in addition to simply providing premises for attending majlises or for daily supplications or duas. Such amenities including cheaper education, housing, business or personal loans, welfare assistance, cheaper health care or screening, sports facilities, medical insurance etc. are provided with the support of philanthropists in expectation that such facilities are not abused by individuals who are not members or by members who do not pay their annual subscriptions to their Jamaats.

To ensure that such facilities are not abused, the community needs to introduce identity cards with serialised individual pin numbers with the objective that facilities from the community are provided on presentation of identity cards. The identity cards should become the basis of operating or dealing with community members on any issue be it marriage, loans, donations etc. Backed with a computerised data bank, this would enable a proper track of growth of different age groups thereby facilitating future planning and would enable a proper follow-up of loans not repayed.

The modalities of working with such cards is beyond the scope of this editorial but with the many computer software programmes that are available on the market, the exercise should not be difficult to manage especially if a group of paid professionals is assigned to undertake this task.

The exercise would not only simplify the identification of bona fide community members but would also help to have a more accurate count of our population in different Jamaats. The proposed scheme should inculcate a system of providing identity cards to newly borns and for the cards to be relinquished by family members after death. The proposed cards can carry such details as name, age, address, domicile, blood group, emergency contact, qualifications etc. Records on cards can be updated by renewal say every two or three years to avoid frequent re-issuance. Identity cards should be issued with a clear cut demarcation between males, females and minors. Members who are exempted from paying annual fees should also be given cards.

To launch this scheme, the way forward would be for our regional Federations to come up with a joint plan whereby all our Jamaats worldwide are requested to have a census with an understanding that only those members who are counted will be issued with identity cards. Individual Jamaats can set the ball rolling but to integrate pin numbers of one Jamaat with another the effort would ideally need to be undertaken through the World and Regional Federations.

**Munir Daya** 

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### Your letters

Views, opinions or articles should be addressed to:

The Editor Federation Samachar P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam.

All letters sent to the Federation Samachar by mail or to our email (samachar@raha.com) will be considered for publication unless the author specifically refuses its publication.

Letters will be subject to editing for brevity and content. Only destructive letters and those lacking objectivity or reason will not be considered for publication.

Dear brother,

#### **Denouncing** terrorism

I d just like to say, that I fully support the peace-loving people who are trying to fight terrorism in our beloved country. I don t care if the terrorists are Wahabis, Sunnis, Shia, or somebody else. They must be punished and stopped at all costs.

We all should condemn terrorists for their misdeeds. Islam has no room for killing of innocent people in the name of religion.

A P K Pakistan. Federation Samachar

### Some comments on the live Internet coverage of the last Africa Federation Conference

#### Dear brother,

I followed the Supreme Council meeting via the Real Audio broadcasts on the Africa Federation Internet web page. The quality was superb and I congratulate you and your team for your efforts in allowing us virtual observation of the proceedings.

#### Shabir Mamdani

#### Dear brother,

I listened to the internet relay of the Conference on the Africa Federation web page on the Internet which was clearly audible. However I experienced some difficulty in enlarging some of the photos. I saw *bhajiyas* on the table and copies of *Federation Samachar*.

Congratulations for the good work.

#### Baqir Alloo

Toronto.

#### Dear brother.

The quality of audio and photos of the coverage of the Africa Federation Conference through the Internet were excellent. We heard and enjoyed the opening night speeches which were in bookish Gujarati.

#### Gulamabbas Dhala,

Los Angeles.

#### Dear brother,

I logged on to listen to the Africa Federation Conference proceedings. The coverage was pretty good. Surfers were only required to have the RealPlayer8 software which one could download free from the Africa Federation website. I liked Hasnain Walji s speech, which emphasized on education, schools, and the importance of supporting our scholars.

#### Arif

Toronto.

#### Dear brother,

### Emotions have no place in professing Aqeedat

As we would raise our arms in anger if they abused and cursed our Imams which they never do because they respect Ahlul Bait, they too would raise their arms as a religious obligation if we abuse and curse *Sahaba-e-Rasool*.

Emotions have no place in professing Aquedat. Emotions become necessary only where Aquedat is weak for conviction. Why do Zakireen in Pakistan quip up emotions of hatred and thereby sabotage the universality of the message of Imam Husein (a.s.)? Can we call this pecuniary motives in the context of commercialism in Zakiri?

#### SKM

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Dear brother.

#### Our Juloos leaves us vulnerable to being misinterpreted

When I watched the juloos on TV to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain (a.s.) in Lebanon, Beirut and another one in South Lebanon the Shia Arabs were clad in black clothes and there were only black flags and Hizbullah flags.

There were neither Alams nor taboots nor light decorations like a carnival. The reason is that they were not converts from other religions where idol worshiping is normal.

I also saw the Juloos of Pakistani Shias on Pakistan Television. The Juloos was resplendant with Alams and towering taboots. In my opinion such a juloos, instead of drawing non-Shias to the message of Imam Husain (a.s.) actually repulses them from accepting our school of thought.

Juloos is effective only if its aim and spirit are not subverted to produce results which are harmful to Shiaism and make a mockery of the purity of Islam. No wonder that there is so strong an opposition by the main streams of Muslims in Pakistan to Shias Juloos of Muharram and many Shia lives are lost.

Saeeda KM Dar es Salaam.

Send your letters, opinions or thoughts to the:

Samachar Mailbag, P.O. Box 6710 Dar es salaam. Email: samachar@raha.com Dear brother,

### Indian Earthquake and the Great Benevolent

Led by professional mediatisation of the Gujarat Earthquake the public sense of solidarity with the victims was indeed genuine. Similarly our Federations and community members worldwide reacted fast to the plight of our akin who were embroiled in the turmoil. We were all surely touched by the heartrending disaster and tragic stories.

While new reports of increasing damage and loss kept rolling in, the full extent of the disaster quickly became clear. Almost immediately small scale initiatives were set up as the Gujarat Federation liaised with regional Federations, particularly the World Federation and various charitable organisations to seek support. Emotional appeals for donations were made and one could only be touched to see the work put in by all those men, women and children who worked for a good cause.

Some serious questions do however arise if one takes a closer look at some of these assistance campaigns. All kinds of personal gain and agendas regularly surface to be impure motives, misleading public opinion and misusing the efforts of all the good intending people showing their solidarity. In this case it appeared that there was a hidden contest on who visited the most earthquake disaster areas and how fast. Fast indeed, don t ask them how long they actually stayed in the area. Of course, some who visited the disaster area did so sincerely and may God bless them.

We have heard of extra funds being received by the disaster committee which may not necessarily be spent in the way donors would have liked. Again there are news of cases where individuals or families which did not require support have been put on the donor recipient list of some of the affected Jamaats in order to solicit extra funds despite the individuals/families explicity stating that they do not need assistance.

This is an appeal for a more relevant and honest kind of relief work and possibly the World Federation may wish to make an appraisal of the whole disaster to find out how much the relief committee received from different sources and how funds were disbursed. Such an appraisal would provide a guidance of how to better handle future catastrophies, may Allah (s.w.t.) protect us from them.

Observer Dar es Salaam.

Dear brother.

#### **Health Convention was informative**

The CHB International Medical Convention night and the inauguration session were most enjoyable and inspiring. I wish to compliment your Jamaat for organising the convention, which undoubtedly will go a long way towards providing health care, and fighting against disease, the common enemy of mankind.

I pray that the Almighty will continue to inspire the Central Health Board and colleagues in the Jamaat for their noble endeavours.

Biharilal K Tanna

Chairman, Shree Hindu Mandal

Dar es Salaam.



Dear brother,

### Rituals in the name of religion should be discontinued

Every year, when Muharram comes, I become sad for a couple of reasons. One is the commemoration of the death of Imam Hussein (a.s.).

But the other reason I get sad is that people get lost in rituals.....and do give a bad name to the Sh ii religion and faith through these rituals.

People blindly do *latmiya* (matam), bring out mock coffins and flags and adorn and kiss them, serve special food labeled *niyaz* and *nadhr*, sometimes bringing out a fake horse, and even make mock Islamic centers in commemoration of the death of Imam Hussein (a.s.).

These were initially done with the intent to remember Imam Hussein (a.s.) and for his love in the Indian subcontinent where there is a culture to love symbolism.

In the old days, and in that society, that may have been, and possibly may still be a good way to teach others about Islam, because the culture is like that, so long as people do not mix it up with religion.

When does symbolism cross the line of religion? When people think it becomes mandatory to have these rituals, and they emphasize these more than the *wajib* and important issues. When such rituals hurt religion, as many of these rituals do more harm than good, then this becomes *bid'ah* and an innovation in Islam.

How do we define true love and remembering of Imam Hussein (a.s.)? This is simple...by doing the obligatory things he commanded us to do.

How many of us who practice, and become passionate about these rituals, do the *wajib* things that he commanded us to do? Do we pray

regularly and on time, do we learn the meaning of what we recite in *salat*, do we invite non Muslims and Sunnis to Islam, do we deal with society s problems?

Most of the people who practice these rituals do not emphasize on the obligatory issues and get caught up in rituals, therefore degrading the Islamic religion. That means these rituals are not helping but retarding the growth of Islam especially in the West where the youth are already confused.

Do such rituals do more harm then good? Absolutely. We need to use different down to earth mediums for us to be able to relay the Message of Islam and the Message of Imam Hussein (as) to people in the right way.

Why is it that people think Imam Hussein (a.s.) will love them more if they continue to keep out others by insisting on their culture and language (Urdu, Gujarati, Farsi, Arabic, or any non English language) in the West, where there is ample opportunity to bring Non Muslims to Islam and Sunnis to the path of ahlul bayt (as).

What would Imam Hussein (a.s.) and our Prophet (s.a.w.) and Imam Al Hujjah, Al Mahdi (a.s.) prefer? If those of us who claim to follow these rituals blindly do it for the love of Imam Hussein (a.s.), we need to wake up and see what love really means.

What does love of ahlul bayt (a.s.) mean? Love means doing what our Imams want us to do, not what we want to do.

We claim Imam Hussein (a.s.) sacrificed hiimself for Islam. Did he also sacrifice himself for the rituals so that we could emphasize these more than

the religion?

Let us think and use logic and reasoning instead of emotion when it comes to Islam and the sacrifice of Imam Hussein (a.s.).

Is Imam Hussein (a.s.) only for the Sh ii people or is he for mankind? if you think he is for mankind then you need to attract people to him, and performing rituals that make no sense will do more harm than good.

Non-traditionalist Toronto.

Dear brother,

# Litigations should be solved within

I have noted a trend creeping in our community about taking our Africa Council or individual Jamaats or for that matter each other to the court of law

This kind of litigation is not only harmful for our community but also in some situations is *haraam*.

We have a whole chain of arbitrators from Jamaat level to the Africa and World Council and also our Ulemas and lastly our representative of our 12th Imam (a.s.), our Marjas, so why do we feel it necessary to litigate or sue Shias in an un-Islamic court?

By using an un-Islamic institution we are showing others that Islam is incomplete which is why we need help from other laws rather then Allah s law!

We must educate members not run to courts as our disputes should be solved within our community and as Imam Ali (a.s.) said: "One illgotten piece of stone in a house is a guarantee for its ruin."

Muhammad Ladak,



Dear brother,

### **Clarification from Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS)**

On behalf of Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS), I am extremely grateful to the *Federation Samachar* Editor, Munir Daya for delivering a magnificent speech at the Africa Federation Conference during the April Easter Holidays weekend in Dar-es-Salaam on the role played by the Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS) with regard to immigration to Canada. I can t thank him enough.

I am pleased to inform you that directly as a result of this speech we received a response enquiring about services rendered pertaining to the Canadian Immigration process by the Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS). However please allow me to clarify some of the statements that were communicated in the speech which could have some negative repercussions on Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS) at a later stage:

- 1. At present moment, JSS only offer Professional Services and Expertise in Immigration matters; and we execute a flawless transition package. Inshallah, in the near future we shall embark on Job Placement and Settlement Services, Airport pick up, etc, and provide assistance to newly landed immigrants in searching and acquiring jobs. Ameen!
- 2. JSS Professional Fees are Canadian \$2500 per family for Independent Category, and Canadian \$4000 per family for Business Category.
- 3. The Canadian Immigration Application success rate in the range of 90%, as matter of fact, was referred to my Canadian Immigration Application Portfolio of over 386 cases over a period of 4ß years, as an Immigration Consultant prior to my joining JSS.

The success rate provided by Dilawar Shaban, the Vice President of JSS, to Munir Daya during their meeting in Toronto last December implied to my previous 90% success rate and not the current success rate of JSS.

Roshan Rahemtulla Immigration Consultant Jaffari Settlement Services Toronto.

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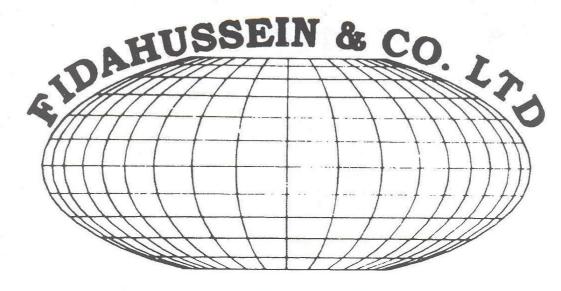
### Medical Convention resolutions need to be followed up

My congratulations to the Central Health Board (CHB) for organising a quality Medical Convention in Dar es Salaam during the Easter holidays. Unfortunately I was not able to attend, but I got reports and a very positive feedback from brothers who attended.

A few comments on the resolutions that were passed at the convention:

- Many good points have been raised, but no time limit has been fixed for implementation of the resolutions.
- A working committee should be made which should liaise with different Jamaats so that targets can be met. A definitive time limit should be set for each programme.
- No smoking and No pariki is a very good idea. I have noticed that leniency has been given to smokers. Designated smoking areas have been suggested, but no leniency has been given to pariki eaters. Most pariki eaters are our youth and we do not want to turn them away from our centres.
- I think if we succeed in health education through health forums, then people may stop the *pariki* habit themselves. Force could create rebels.
- Screening is already been done by various Jamaats. We just need to add Thalassaemia screening in the programme. Once the screening is up and running, then there will be no need of pre-marital thalassaemia screening as all individuals will know their status. Unlike HIV, thalassaemia is not a taboo, as it is an inherited condition, which happens to be common in our community
- The recommendation given by the CHB to the various Jamaat are quite simple and implementable. It is just that someone needs to seriously pursue these at Jamaat level.

Dr Munir M Datoo London.



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Dear brother,

# Taqwa should be the heart of our leadership

There is a danger that those who are in leadership positions in our small community may be leaning on a crooked stick. It may be that our reliance upon experiences of the past, the struggles and strategies of the years gone by is no longer relevant to the contemporary context of the Jamaats. We are in a danger not only of being curators of religious antiquities, but also in the point of danger depending on things that are not there anymore.

An institution born in the matrix of human suffering and pain, birthed a generation of leaders who — with remarkable skill and foresight created an institution, which remains, vast and impressive and also envied by the outsiders. Wherever we have settled, we have instituted Jamaats with discipline and vigor with the teachings of Ahlulbayt (a.s.).

Our forefathers have managed to hold on to the Islam Original with sacrifices. Even a casual visitor to our institutions will agree that our institution represents a community which is vibrant and given the history will not hesitate to conclude that our forefathers had vision.

Visit any town or city in East Africa and you will be reminded by memories of great personalities who have been in the forefront of our community development who made these Jamaats a source of psychological strength and spiritual wholeness to the community far and wide.

We have won praise from all our Marjas of our time who have said Khojas are an example to be emulated by other Shia institutions worldwide.

#### Alarm bells sounded.

Times have indeed changed but the priorities remain the same as in the Federation Samachar

yesteryears. Our forefathers were also then concerned with education and economic empowerment of the community as we are today.

In the last 50 years our community has settled in far flung places which was never thought of. Our traditions and culture have also started to be diluted and there remains a distant threat that if the young generation is exposed to unthinkable external forces, the very fabric of our closely-knit society will shake. Globalization has started to bite us and also our survival is at stake spiritually, socially and economically.

In Tanzania for example it is no secret that the container culture has taken unforgettable toll, and though cited as the good old days - has in fact degenerated part of our community into materialistic zombies. During that decade, education was given less attention, we were blinded with abundant materialistic possessions. wealth was flaunted on mundane things and the carefree laissez-faire attitude created a dangerous illusion that the whole community had prospered like never before. This massive wealth sometimes blemished life and its values and some started paying lip service to religion and the community, having been caught in the rat race to reach targets as if the end of the world was nigh! Today, business competition, indegenization and globalization of the economy are further pushing the traditional dukawallah aside and are taking a heavy toll with no sign of abating, call it a blessing or a curse, Allah (s.w.t.) knows best.

Showing off wealth in the most un-Islamic way was our past time and still is! Look at our marriage ceremonies....need I say more? Moral principles have been compromised for opulent lifestyles. We were and are still living beyond our means and also wealth is considered a yardstick for success and status - how you obtain this wealth is not morally questionable. The impact on our young generation has been totally negative and we have lost a generation of youths who have missed the boat of acquiring education, only to regret now when survival is for the fittest and everywhere there is a clamour for education.

The alarm bells had started ringing fast but did not wake us from our slumber. The leadership is now grappled with a dilemma that threatens the very existence of our community. These undeniable changes that are occurring in our community stem from a culture that refuses to learn from the past. That is why in my opinion, with economic, cultural and socio changes this millennium requires effective leadership for the next generation.

#### Leadership qualities.

When discussing about leadership the watchword *taqwa* is discussed but often misunderstood. At base however, the study of *taqwa* concerns itself with the right and wrong namely AMRABIL MAARUF and NAHY-ANIL MUNKAR of human behavior as well as with the consequence of human behavior.

Taqwa is a systematic examination of morals and principles of ideals as well as integrity and taqwa in leadership is significant fundamentally because that leadership affects the lives of community members. Taqwa should be in the strictest Islamic way as we are the torchbearers of Ahlulbayt (a.s.)



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demonstrated and practiced *taqwa* in its most original form.

For a community as ours, conduct and moral obligations are of the highest prerequiste when one talks of leadership. If our leadership is not governed by *taqwa* the community will be affected because those at the helm could be destructive to the ethos of our spirituality as well as our well being.

Leadership has its complexities and dimensions and is not a matter of simply following simple rules. Leaders should be conscientious and must act as custodians of the community. Acting in accordance to *taqwa* is a most basic tenet of strong leadership.

#### State of our Jamaats.

To organize and sustain Jamaats is no easy feat agreed. But why is it that in our community wherever we go we find it difficult to find leaders? The community members hardly take interest in community affairs and this general lassitude is widespread in most Jamaats. The meetings when called are hardly well attended.

What could be a reason for such passiveness? Many times we have witnessed that there are no leaders to take over the helm till someone who is unknown is bulldozed into the chair and Lo behold! Then through totalitarianism, criticism is not at all digestible, annual meetings are not called in time, accounts are not presented for years on end, and sometimes the constitution is also violated or changed, and with time the leadership evolves into virtual autocracy giving the impression of indispensability. All tactics are used to justify the continuity of their leadership, eventually this isolates the leadership from the mainstream community members and the blame falls conveniently on the community for their lack of participation at meetings. This is purely a moral temptation meaning a feeling of sacred attachment to lead the community and eventually creates a clique leadership.

The Jamaat meetings sometimes take a form of entertainment because evervone attends to watch the confrontation between an outspoken speaker and the Chairman. No meaningful progress is seen. When an election is called, the whole scenario erupts into a Politics of vengeance . Personalities are more discussed than issues and all sorts of vendetta are expected from rival camps to further their cause. This in a community of the followers of IS-LAM ORIGINAL! It may well be that as a community we have gone far but progressed little. Why this idiosyncrasy one may ask? All I can say is that this is due to the inability and indolence by our leaders to train and mould able community members to take over.

We must overcome the endemic cynicism that threatens the participation at our meetings and restore trust and confidence to ensure support of the majority of members. Leaders must be a role model for future generations to emulate.

#### Education and civic responsibility. State of our learning Institutions

We must educate our peers, children and grand children about the importance of civic engagement in the community; our leaders must develop more leaders — committed leaders. Education in the sense that the community members at least understand what goes around them. This starts at our learning institutions at grass root level.

Leaders must also take full responsibility to create change, invest in longterm growth of the community and be able to recognize individual power.

Let's take a look at our school and madrasa institutions. Take the case of the Almuntazir Islamic Seminary. What is wrong heaven knows but isn t it a shame to see that our children are studying in other schools in spite of our own facility?

Much as a parent I would like to send my children to Al Muntazir but there remains in me skepticism about the instability of the school, leave alone the system.

Our community is spending a lot of money on educating our children in other schools when that money if ploughed into our efficient educational system can work wonders!

In my estimation in Tanzania we are spending about 2 m US Dollars of our hard earned money to educate our children in other schools - an enormous amount as this can take us very far if our own school offers higher standards. We have problems, which we must not shy away from, granted the leaders cannot be expected to work miracles to solve all the problems that affect us but surely a long-term solution can be found.

In my opinion the need to restructure or re-engineer our educational institutions is apparent as ever. Schools are moral institutions, designed to promote social norms. Emphasis must be on imparting quality education, which can mould our future society into good Muslims and produce future leaders with high standards of morality. Our schools and madressas must be geared to provide both Islamic and secular education to the fullest. It is high time that these institutions be run by professionals in the fields of education with our leaders overseeing the progress without due interference.

The story is the same with our other organizations like the dispensary and hospital. We have not been able to elevate our hospital into a fine health center over a period of 20 years and our community members are forced to use other than our own facilities.

#### We have to change.

Our prescription for change begins



with our personal pledge to have renewed emphasis on what strong

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character means for the leadership. With firm commitment we can push our community to new heights and leaders have to rise from our ranks.

The dual responsibility for fostering a strong and healthy community is ours. It is precisely what Imam Ali (a.s.) had fought for during his lifetime. History has recorded that not a single person was hungry during his reign with his style of leadership and history has judged that "the era was a golden period in the history of Islam."

The beautiful book Nahjul Balagah has numerous letters written by Imam Ali (a.s.) to his subordinates on leadership qualities, which has a marked relevance even to our present time. In fact this great book must be made into a textbook of learning in our institutions to instill good morals and leadership qualities to our children.

Our leaders meanwhile have to abstain from a tendency of offering short term solutions. Which in my opinion holds that as long as the leader has provided the community members with basic necessities in the religious field namely preachers, madressa, school, medical etc they need not worry or care how the institutions fare - this will take care of itself.

#### Issues that affect our leadership

Our community over the years has become more aware of the world around us, has become mobile, and urbane and with the democratic institutions that we have nurtured we are able to respond to an appropriate style of leadership. This rising level of education, financial and social sophistication mean that leaders can no longer be people-centered. Coordinated leadership is necessary at every level in the community which would provide new resources of information and cre-

ativity.

A leader is accountable for all that goes on in the community, to shy away from real issues and show less concern is a weakness that has to be arrested. Acting in accordance with principles is the most basic conviction of strong democracy and the conscience of *tagwa*.

#### Future of the community and leadership

As to the future of the community, *taqwa* in leadership should be a minimum expectation; it should be a standard for both private and public characters. Then only electors and leaders will hold each other in high esteem.

It is our responsibility for fostering a strong and healthy democracy in the community. While leaders must rise to the occasion, we must remember these leaders are from amongst us. Each one of us has a part to play. The first step towards holding our leaders to high standards, is to hold ourselves to high standards and the community has a highest responsibility to choose the right leaders. *Taqwa* must matter when we choose our leaders.

Anybody aspiring for leadership in our community must first ask some tough question that we demand from our present leaders.

What would we do if we had the power of their positions? And more immediately what can we do now given the power of current positions?

It is very difficult to articulate on concrete terms the strong character of true leaders in this day and age.

The list of values that one must ask oneself if he aspires for public office are:

- 1 Am I a practicing Muslim?
- 2. Am I honest?
- 3. Will I be able to work for common good?
- 4 Do I have a vision for the community?

In a nutshell: Is my mind and soul gov-

erned by taqwa in both character and action? Taqwa in leadership must become a habit, just as any craftsman develops his ability to create an object, people become virtuous by practicing virtue. Taqwa is not something that can be held in reserve for momentous issues, it must be a constant demonstration.

Leadership does not require heroic or economically crippling sacrifices but merely vision and commitment. They should serve selflessly and it is also essential that we revive the participation of the community at large in day to day running of the community. We need leaders who have the foresight to understand the needs of the community and create that environment where there is a collective and dedicated involvement of all community members.

All members must be involved in decision making. Blanket approvals and bulldozing of extravagant plans need a cautious approach because in my opinion we need to prioritize our investment in human resources first, rather than in grandiose projects which are very taxing to the community in these very stringent times. We need to strengthen our present institutions urgently with a drastic shake up required in our attitudes as well.

We must not choose what is the most visible and convenient method of participation. Rather, we must find a relevant method of participation.

When the leaders will be selflessly participating in community affairs there will be self-evidence of community participation and this will enhance progress for the benefit of all.

"O Allah, let us bear out and hold up that which Thou maketh known to us as the truth, "" and let us be fully aware of that which we fall short of doing."

(Excerpt from Dua e Iftetah)

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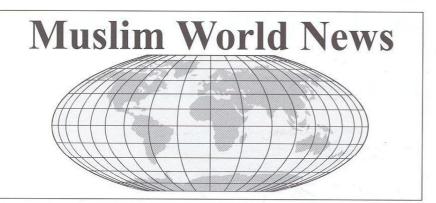
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# Over 100 professionals killed in Karachi sectarian violence as death toll continues to rise

In early August a senior Pakistani defence official of the Shia Muslim faith was shot dead outside his home in the southern port city of Karachi.

Syed Zafar Hussain, director of the Defence Ministry's research department, was shot five times as he was getting into his car in the Karachi district of Nazimabad.

In a second attack, unidentified gunmen shot dead a Shia religious leader, Rizwan-ul Hasan Shah, on his way to a mosque in the eastern city of Lahore. An unidentified gunman is reported to have fled from the scene of the killing in Karachi with two accomplices.

An extremist Sunni group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi has said it carried out the attack against Mr Hussain and against the managing director of Pakistan s state-run oil company Shaukat Mirza who was shot towards the end of July along with his driver Salman Shah.

Two high-profile politicians - former Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Siddique Kanju and a former provincial assembly member - were also killed by masked gunmen.

Just two days earlier a Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan leader and one of his companions were shot dead by Sipah e Sahaba while another was seriously injured in an ambush near the Committee Garden. These killings added to the gory tale of sectarian killings in Pakistan.

In June and early July three more doctors were killed in Karachi in sectarfederation Samachar ian-related violence, taking the figure of professionals killed in sectarian violence in the city over the last two years to over 100. The Sipah e Sahaba terrorists also killed a Sunni doctor in Karachi mistaking him to be Shia. Three terrorists stopped Dr. Ishrat Hussain s Car No. L9010 on Main Shahrah-e-Noor Jehan and opened heavy fire on him.

Dr. Ishrat Hussain ran his clinic for the past 20 years. He was about 50 years old and had 5 children. According to sources, some people asked Dr. Ishrat s compounder about the doctor s sect. When the compounder said he belonged to Ahlul Sunnah, they told him to ask Dr. Ishrat to remove the name Hussian from his name if he was a Sunni.

Many doctors are in the process of shutting down their clinics and moving abroad while many more are seriously thinking of moving out. Police sources confirm that in the past three years sectarian terrorists have specifically targeted professionals, especially doctors. In April this year, the Punjab police unearthed a conspiracy to kill Dr Adeebul Hasan Rizvi, one of the most well known doctors in Karachi. While the gang planning Dr Rizvi s murder was busted, the doctor is still under threat like many others of his fraternity.

Dr Rizvi is not an ordinary doctor. Most people would agree that Karachiites are lucky to have him. The irony is that the group of terrorists asked to kill him was not even aware of his identity. They were just given his photograph by the people who wanted to get him killed because of his religious denomination.

In June, Deobandi sectarian terrorists attacked four times and killed three doctors. In mid July two more Shias were shot dead in Karachi. The two-Fida Hussein and Shaaban Ali were standing near the Imambargah and Jamia Masjid Imamia in Khamosh Colony when two terrorists belonging to the Sipah e Sahaba on a motorcycle, opened fire at them.

Both the 25-year-old Fida Hussein, a cook in the Imambargah, and Shaaban Ali, 23, a student there, sustained serious injuries. Both were rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where the doctors pronounced them dead.

The Karachi police have reportedly been tipped by an intelligence agency about the possibility of more organised attacks on doctors. Many doctors have admitted that the community finds the situation very scary. We are totally vulnerable at our clinics. Doctors have also been increasingly manhandled by activists of various sectarian outfits at the hospitals. Whenever they bring in their injured or dead, they invariably misbehave with doctors and the paramedical staff, said one doctor.

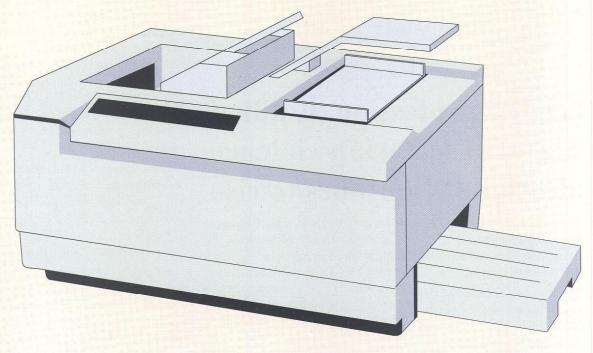
Only last month activists of Sunni Tehreek damaged over a dozen cars of the doctors working at the Civil Hospital after they brought in the bodies of their slain leader, Salim Qadri and his five companions. Last week, doctors at the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital were beaten up when the body of a sectarian activist was brought to the hospital by his accomplices.

Sectarian terrorists are increasingly targeting professionals, especially doctors and lawyers. This is happening in Karachi and also in the Punjab. They have also started targeting civil bureaucrats and police officers, says a police officer.

The second most common group of professionals that have fallen victim to sectarian hatred are lawyers. At least 34 lawyers, both Sunni and Shia, have

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# Headscarfs introduced by UK police

Muslim police officers have welcomed the UK Metropolitan Police s decision to introduce a traditional headscarf as a uniform option for Muslim women. The Association of Muslim Police hopes this will encourage more Muslim women to join the police force.

Association Chairman, Inspector Richard Varley said We ve certainly had dozens of inquires by potential Muslim female recruits but those inquiries dry up as soon as they realise they can t wear a hijab, he said.

He said the latest move sent a wider message that Muslim values are valued within the Met whether or not the officers choose to take up the offer of a hijab.

With Muslims making up to one million of seven million Londoners there should be around 3,000 Muslim police officers rather than the 100 or so now in the force, the inspector added.

The introduction of the hijab, with the distinctive Metropolitan police black and white check pattern, follows a similar move by the Met for Sikh officers who are allowed to wear a turban on duty.

Sir John said the force had now also signed up to the Commission for Racial Equality s Leadership Challenge, which aims to encourage organisations to play a greater role in promoting racial equality.

Black Police Association Chairman, Inspector Leroy Logan also agreed progress had been made on race issues.

### UK Thalassaemia Screening report reveals 9% are affected

Screening results undertaken by the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) in ten Jamaats in the UK suggest that at least 9% of the community there is a Thalassaemia carrier with the likely figure possibly being close to 18%. This indicates a very high incidence and easy likelihood of two Thalassaemia carriers getting married. The risk is higher still if the bride and groom are related (cousins) and it is therefore very important to avoid cousin marriages and to have a blood test to exclude the possibilities of having a 'Thalassaemia carrier' status before getting engaged.

The Jamaats where tests were done were Birmingham, Essex, Hyderi, Leicester, Leeds, Milton Keynes, Peterborough, Stanmore and Wessex. A total of 1812 people attended the screening programme from who 1214 had the Thalassaemia test. Pertinent statistics follow:

No. whose blood sample was insufficient and needed to repeat the test.	15	1%
No. of people who had successful test	199	99%
No. of people who were too anaemic to have the test (they needed Iron		
supplements before repeating test).	105	9%
No. of people who were <b>not</b> affected by Thalassaemia	988	82%
No. of people with Thalassaemia Trait.	106	9%

#### Bhuj gets new housing complex



The Al Mahdi Society homes built through the assistance of the World Federation

On 17 Rabi al Awwal 1422, 10 June 2001, mumineen of Bhuj celebrated Meelad un Nabi out in the open at their new Al Mahdi Society. This land of 3300 sq yds was specifically bought in April 2001 to temporarily house all the 80 families of Bhuj affected by the earthquake. All 80 families affected by the earthquake were scheduled to be accommodated here by the end of June 2001.

#### .....Sectarian violence continues in Karachi

(...from page 17)

been killed in sectarian violence in the last two years. But while one can understand the reasons for killing lawyers, police have no plausible answers to why doctors are increasingly being targeted. Lawyers represent one or the other side and can be caught in the cross-fire but doctors I really don thave an answer to it except that it may be an attempt to deprive a certain sect

of its top professionals, said a police officer.

None of the doctors killed, whether Shia or Sunni, belonged to any political or religious party or group. Allama Hasan Turabi, a Shia leader, confirmed that ...they were killed simply because they were Shia.

Meanwhile, the government is working on an ordinance to ban sectarian groups. Any affiliation with sectarian

outfits would be considered unlawful and punishable after the ordinance is enforced. However, while it was important to take this step, experts admit the move by itself is not likely to result in less sectarian violence.

The phenomenon has to be seen in the context of changing societal attitudes. Increasing religious bigotry has resulted in sectarianism and easy availability of weapons has made it easier for sectarian terrorists to operate.

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### MEDIA WATCH

### U.S. Mortgage Lender Freddie Mac Enters into Islamic Financing

One of the largest home-financing institutions in the United States, the Freddie Mac Corporation, recently announced it is launching a mortgage partnership with American Finance House LARIBA in accordance with Islamic prohibitions against the payment of interest.

The Islamic Mortgage system, or LARIBA model (Los Angeles Reliable Investment Bankers Associates), is an alternative to the current home-finance system in the United States. The most popular US mortgage is a 30-year loan in which payments during the first 6-7 years of the loan are applied principally to interest.

The partnership, seen as an unprecedented milestone for American Muslims, expands home ownership opportunities for a rapidly growing segment of the US community. There are about 6-7 million Muslims living in the US.

This is a good initiative, said American Muslim Council Executive Director Aly Abuzaakouk. This shows the proactive side of corporations. According to an announcement in March this year, Freddie Mac will invest an estimated \$1 million in contracts from American Finance House LARIBA, a Pasadena, California-based Islamic lending institution that has instituted similar home finance instruments to accommodate the burgeoning Muslim-American community in California.

The partnership supplies American Finance House LARIBA with the needed capital to meet the growing demand for a specifically tailored housing contract or Islamic mortgage. Some members of the US Muslim community have chosen to stay out of the home mortgage market because of religious proscriptions against the payment, receipt, or application of interest.

Observant Muslims were disenfranchised by the American Dream of home ownership because the interest charged on conventional mortgages is in conflict with Islamic law, said Saber Sala, Vice President of Customer Strategies for the Freddie Mac Corporation. Our initiative with American Finance House LARIBA underscores Freddie Mac s commitment to foster homeownership for all of the communities that make America their home.

LARIBA financing arrangements are based on a shorter 7-10 year term, and require that lender remuneration amount to no more than 65 to 70 percent of the original price of the home. Proponents of the LARIBA model argue that the average American family changes mortgages once every 5 or 6 years, which results in constant payment of interest on debt.

The LARIBA financing agreement consists of two parts. The first is a loan agreement in which the client returns the capital to the company (Return-of-Capital). The second is a lease agreement based on an agreed lease rate, calculated on the declining equity stipulated by the Return-of-Capital pay back agreement.

The client receives immediate title to the property, with LARIBA serving as lien holder. The lease value is based on fair and comparable lease rates of equivalent properties in the area, and is negotiated on a case by case basis between LARIBA and the client.

American Finance House LARIBA currently serves the US Muslim community with Islamic mortgage systems in 15 states, and is the first Islamic financial institution in the United States to achieve status as an official Freddie Mac Seller/Service provider.

This initiative facilitates the large number of principled individuals who choose strict adherence to their religion, said American Finance House LARIBA's President. Maguid Abdelaaty. This has very positive implications and will allow American Muslims to obtain the American Dream.

(Source: Office of International Programs, US Department of State.)

### Persian Gulf Arabs Prefer Medical Treatment in Iran

Most of the Arabs residing in the Persian Gulf area prefer to seek medical treatment in Iran, says Professor Khodadoost, a prominent medical researcher and professor in the United States.

He says that Iranians have contributed significantly to scientific progress in the West and have made many scientific innovations there. Talking with journalists in Shiraz, Professor Khodadoost also said that the necessary ground for the scientific progress of the youth should be prepared in the country and that by implementing certain policies, the country can pave the way for the return of educated Iranians living abroad. He also said that every Western thing is not necessarily bad and that Iran can use their technology without importing their culture. Professor Khodadoost treats eye patients in Shiraz for several months every year.

(Source: Tehran Times City Desk)

### Mideast peace process dead no hope for revival

This article by Charley Reese was published on 8th May, 2001 in the Orlando Sentinel under the title-'Bulk of evidence backs US commitment to Israel.' Permission from Charley Reese was sought prior to carrying this article.

The key to peace in the Middle East is in Washington, not Jerusalem. It is our government that empowers the Israeli government. It is vain for people to keep saying, Renew the peace talks. The peace process in the Middle East is dead. Kaput. Finished.

People should take Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at his word. In recent interviews he has made it clear: There will be no permanent agreement with the Palestinians; all Jewish settlements remain; the Golan and East Jerusalem belong to Israel; and no Palestinian refugees will be allowed to return or be eligible for compensation.

Can people not understand plain Hebrew translated into plain English?

The peace process is dead. Sharon and a majority of Israelis don t want peace. They want the territory they have, and they want a defeated, despairing and docile Palestinian population living in isolation.

If they wanted peace, they wouldn t have killed more than 400 Palestinians, wounded more than 13,000, destroyed God knows how many homes, businesses and orchards. They would not have continued to expand settlements. They would not have continued to violate the Fourth Geneva Convention and defy some 60-plus United Nations resolutions.

So what s going to happen? It s simple.

The Palestinians will continue to suffer and die and will continue to try to kill as many Israelis as their limited means permit. What you have is the military occupation by a regional superpower of a largely unarmed population. Palestinians, like people everywhere and for all time, have the right to resist military occupation by a foreign power. What you are seeing are the final acts of European colonialism being played out in Palestine, which was never Europe s to give away in the first place.

This will go on until Sharon s need for enemies provokes a regional war or until the conscience of individual Americans is aroused. The key to peace in the Middle East is in Washington, not Jerusalem. It is our government that empowers the Israeli government to defy international law and human decency. The Israelis wouldn't last six months without American backing, and they know that.

The old canard that the Israelis and Palestinians must settle their differences themselves is just an Israeli-dictated ploy to make sure nobody interferes with their treatment of the Palestinians. It s the same as if the police told a child rape victim, Go work it out with your rapist.

There can never be negotiations between a strong party and a powerless party. To pretend otherwise is to engage in public deception. For years, Israelis would say that force is the only language the Palestinians understand. Now the Palestinians are saying the same thing about the Israelis. It s ugly stuff. If you love violence, then get a satellite dish and you can watch them kill each other on Arab television indefinitely.

You may not like this, but the lives of

2 million Palestinians, many of them children, depend on us. Their deaths will be on our conscience. They do not have the power to stop the Israelis from occupying their land and brutalizing them. Our president and our Congress do. But they are afraid of the Israeli lobby. Therefore, if we do not give the American politicians some backbone by letting them know Americans are tired of being accessories to Israeli aggression, their misery will be unending.

Think about what it s like to be poor in a devastated landscape with no hope of relief. Then think what it s like to be blinded or paralyzed by an Israeli bullet with utterly no safety net. The Palestinian people do not deserve what is happening to them. Their plight puts us in the uncomfortable position of standing either by the innocent victims or by the oppressors.

There is no longer any neutral ground for people with an ounce of morality left in them. One way or another, we will all have to choose. Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee, said the poet John Donne.

Indeed it does, for with every Palestinian death a little bit of our own souls will die as long as we do nothing, say nothing, think nothing as if we could hide from our own conscience.

The most damned will be those in Washington who let their own fears and lust for the comfortable position condemn a whole people to a hellish existence when all along they had the power to relieve them with simply a frown and a stern word.

Charley Reese can be contacted at: 407-420-5315 or creese@orlandosentinel.com.

# New York hosts WF Executive Council Meeting and MAB Convention

The Huseini Madressa, New York was from 18-20 May, 2001the venue for a three day packed programme organised by the World Federation and graciously hosted by Shia Ithna Asheri Jamat of New York (SIJNY). The World Federation team, numbering over twenty from the UK, was joined by NASIMCO Community leaders, Officers and Community leaders from Allentown, Albany, Dallas. Edmonton, New York, Seattle, Stockholm, Minneapolis, Toronto and Vancouver. Also in attendance were Councillors Mohamed Moledina, Dr. Akber Mithani, Dr. Asgher Moledina and Hussein Walji.

On Friday, May 18, following the welcome address from Al Haj Haider Dinani and Al Haj Gulam Dinani, Dr. Sibtain Panjwani, the Secretary General of the World Federation presented details of the World Federation titled FROM VISION TO REALITY .He gave a broad overview of the services rendered by the World Federation around the globe.

Thereafter, with meticulous precision, members of the Secretariat team enlightened the audience with different activities of this world body. The ninety minute presentation, by nine presenters, appeared almost seamless and encapsulated the teamwork at the World Federation which has sixty volunteers of all age groups. The entire presentation is now available on www.world-federation.org for the community to view online.

With characteristic clarity, Dr. Panjwani illustrated the membership structure and the *modus operandi* of the organisation. He emphasised the need to have virtual teams at every structure of our community that could work across organisational boundaries, contributing to webs of relationships that together would weave the future of our community.

Sheikh Mustafa Jaffer, the Chief Co-Federation Samachar ordinating Officer gave a rare glimpse into the processes involved at the offices of the Secretariat. He explained that after decisions have been made at all levels of the World Federation hierarchy, it is the Secretariat, being the soul of the World Federation, that goes on to implement these decisions. The Secretariat is therefore the dynamic hub around which the whole wheel of the World Federation rotates.

For CETAB Hassan Pirbhai aged 22, gave an impressive performance relating to the activities of the Career, Education and Training Advisory Board. He outlined the importance of loans to deserving students within our community and explained the application processes to obtain the loan. In terms of Primary and Secondary schools that exist within our community worldwide, he expressed the need to improve the standard of education so as to provide a good opportunity for our children to develop their capabilities. He also urged on the need to forge alliances within our community so as to provide opportunities for work experience to recently qualified graduates.

The ZCSS Chairman, Al Haj Mohamed Visram passionately persuaded the audience that no child in the community should ever be deprived of attaining basic education. That was the mission of the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme, which is now sponsoring over 11,000 children worldwide.

On behalf of Mulla Muhsin Jaffer, the Chairman of Islamic Education Board, his deputy and long time associate, Al Hajj Naushad Mehrali profoundly prioritised the numerous objectives of the IEB ranging from projects on the Holy Quran, Zakireen, Madressa, Media, Books, Internet to many others. The idea is, Naushad Mehrali reiterated, that we provide opportunities to all for understanding Islam and sharing the Gift of Islam with each other.

In a sombre mood, Dr. Mohamedtagi Walji, the Medical Advisory Board Chairman cautioned the community on the perils of ignoring issues relating to AIDS and Thallasemia. He enlightened the audience on the challenges and opportunities in community health services. In this regard, Dr Walji stressed the role of MAB as a strategic lead to all our community organisations in matters of health care. He went on to emphasise that only by empowering the Health Boards of Regional Federations and Jamaats will we, as a community, be able to effectively promote health awareness and combat diseases.

The Hon. Treasurer, Al Hajj Ahmed Daya got the audience crunching numbers as he shared the figures for the past three years. He also educated the eager participants as to ways and means of assisting the World Federation from a financial perspective.

The Vice President, Dr. Ahmed Hassam updated the community on the progress and challenges faced by the Secretariat in extending assistance to the victims of the recent earthquake in India. He described the tragic state of the afflicted community in Kutch and provided details of the work carried out by the World Federation and other community agencies in terms of immediate financial relief, temporary housing and business loans. He assured the audience that as soon as the government issues guidelines on earthquake design criteria, the World Federation will embark upon permanent housing for the community.

He also informed participants of the 25th Anniversary conventions, six in all, to be held during the term and gave an update of the Mulla Asghar Memorial Fund, giving details of the collections so far.

Venturing to continue to engage the

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#### (...from page 23)

audience after almost eighty minutes of speeches, the President of the World Federation, Al Haj Hasnain Walji acknowledged that the team at the Secretariat was part of the legacy of Marhum Mulla Asghar and that he was truly blessed to lead such a team. He said the shared vision of the team could only become a reality if the community too was ready to buy into the vision.He launched the document From Vision to Reality and appealed to the audience to give it careful consideration. He reiterated the need for the community to seize the opportunity and network within the community with greater strides, always upholding the values of Simplicity and Sincerity.

#### The Executive Council Meeting

For the first time ever, the Executive Council of the World Federation held a session in the USA on Saturday, 19th May, 2001. In his opening address the President, Dr. Hasnain Walji made an impassioned submission to attending leaders from North America to be cognizant of the realities and challenges faced by the wider society in North America. Our community is not immune from it and to address the challenges, we, as a community would need to recognise that there is a life beyond the Imambargah and the Jamaat.

Al Haj Ghulamabbas Sajan (now, Past Chairman of NASIMCO) emphasised the desirability of close co-operation between NASIMCO and the World Federation and expressed his satisfaction at the level of co-operation between the two organisations. He vocalized NASIMCO s concern on the incompatibility of Aalims invited from abroad with the needs of the community in North America.

#### Kutch/Gujarat Earthquake

Reviewing the progress of the Kutch/ Gujarat Earthquake project, the Vice President, Dr. Ahmed Hassam, who with Al Haj Muhsin Dharamsi, has been co-ordinating the project, provided an elucidated update of progress made in relief efforts. Under the agenda item 'Councillors Forum', Dr Akber Mithani, in his written submission, vocalised concern on the misinformation emanating from certain quarters on the Kutch/Gujarat Earthquake project. Reporting on the Flu Vaccination programme in Vancouver, he urged all Jamaats to consider providing this valuable service. He also made an impassionate plea to the Council to increase its awareness of the challenges posed by the seniors in the community and suggested that the World Federation organise a seniors convention.

Councillor Mohamed Moledina presented a paper on emphasising the level of communication and urged fellow councillors to be proactive in enabling flow of information between the Secretariat and the grassroots.

Responding to a special invitation from the President, Al Haj Habib M. Habib shared his experience as a Vice Chairman of the Washington Democratic Group based in Seattle. He enumerated the benefits of interacting with the wider society particularly in the political process in the USA.

Introducing the Secretariat report, the Secretary General, Dr. Sibtain Panjwani focused upon the utilization of Huqooq funds handled by the Secretariat. He explained the various kinds of Huqooq collected ranging from Khums, Zakaat, Fitra, Sadqa, Kaffara, Imam Zamin, Qaza Namaz and Fasts, Nazr, Radde Mazalim, Widow and Orphans and other specific funds which had to be disbursed in accordance with the guidelines of the Shariah.

He informed the attentive Council that in the preceding three months, disbursements were made through the office of Ayatullah Seestani in Dezful to Iraqi refugees who are living in squalid conditions. There are also Shia refugees from Afghanistan living under appalling conditions as well as orphans and widows whose families have mysteriously disappeared in Iraq, who receive assistance from the World Federation through the offices of established and reputable agencies. Huqooq funds also go to the needy

people of Pakistan and to African Shia brothers in East Africa through the offices of Bilal Muslim Mission. He said the World Federation also continues to assist Mumineen displaced from Somalia who receive assistance regardless of where they are — East Africa, Europe and even Pakistan.

In his presentation peppered with anecdotes, the Chairman of the Islamic Education Board, Mulla Muhsin Jaffer, illustrated the globalisation of Tableegh work undertaken by the WF-IEB dealing with Shias as far as Japan and Korea.

CETAB Chairman, Al Haj Murtaza Datoo highlighted the activities of the Board particularly during the term that had been declared the term of Education. In a double act, Shafiq Govani and Zeeshan Kanji, the two able deputies of Al Haj Mohamed Visram, the Chairman of ZCSS, enlightened the Councillors with facts, figures and pictures of the ZCSS and Dr Abbas Moledina, on behalf of the Chairman of MAB, Dr M T I Walji, presented a report on the activities carried out by the Medical Advisory Board

#### **MAB** Convention

On 20th May 2001 the New York community welcomed healthcare professionals, community workers and volunteers who attended the MAB convention. The convenor, Dr Akber Mithani began proceedings and handed over the Chairmanship to Dr Abbas Moledina.

All speakers presented papers with eloquence detailing issues of health affecting the community. The workshops that followed saw a lot of interactive exchanges on healthcare issues affecting the community.

The President of the World Federation, Dr Hasnain Walji, made a passionate call to community organisations in North America and their leaders to adopt the recommendations presented. This is now a priority for healthcare professionals of our community and the responsibility now rests upon the Jamaats and regional bodies world wide, especially in the USA and Canada to mobilise their resources.



## Global news from the Islamic World

### Iran to join in particle physics experiments

The Iranian government has signed an agreement that will let its scientists join in experiments using the world s largest atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider, being built at Europe s particle physics laboratory.

Four Iranian researchers will join 1,800 other scientists working in the 17-mile circular tunnel laboratory under the Swiss-French border, known by its French acronym CERN.

Iranian industry will contribute equipment worth \$378,000 for the construction of a major experiment, which will include a particle detector to study high energy collisions between protons in the Large Hadron Collider, according to a CERN statement.

The experiment is aimed at understanding why subatomic particles have mass and other questions about the makeup of matter and the universe.

The answers to these questions will have a profound impact on our understanding of the universe, its origins and its future, CERN said in the statement.

The United States and Israel have expressed concern on grounds that Iran is seeking to produce weapons of mass destruction. The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna has however said information obtained by a scientist working at CERN could not be used to make a nuclear weapons.

CERN has nothing to do with nuclear weapons design or fissile explosions, IAEA spokesman David Kyd said. There s no congruence between the two areas of study.

CERN has 20 European member Federation Samachar

countries and also receives support from other nations, including the United States, which is giving \$530 million in equipment toward the construction of the collider.

This is believed to be the first time the Iranian government has signed an agreement to support the laboratory, said Roger Cashmore, Director of Research.

A number of individual Iranian scientists have worked on earlier experiments at CERN, however, because we re an open laboratory, Cashmore said.

CERN has 7,000 researchers from more than 500 institutions in 80 countries. Pure science has always brought together scientists united by a common desire to learn.

#### BBC links Sharon to massacres of innocent Muslim civilians

The BBC s Panorama programme on Sunday 17th June, 2001 broadcast footage linking the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, to the massacres of Shatila and Sabra in 1982, in which hundreds of civilian Muslims were murdered. A war crimes accusation may follow.

The state of Israel tried to stop the programme going on air, but the BBC decided to present evidence from prestigious international experts who stated that Sharon was directly responsations.

sible for these massacres, in which Christian militia, financed by the Israelis, massacred hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the camps of Shatila and Sabra, Lebanon, after the invasion of Beirut.

Richard Falk, Professor of Law at the University of Princeton, USA, stated that Ariel Sharon was responsible for these massacres, as Israeli Minister of Defence at the time. He resigned and a year later, in 1983, was declared incapable of preventing the massacre.

Another international expert, Richard Goldstone, who has acted as Public Investigator in international cases including Rwanda and Yugoslavia, said that If the person in command knows that innocent civilians are killed, he is even more responsible than the people carrying out the execution.

The Producer of the programme, Fergal Keane, stated that It is the duty of journalists to question the acts of those who exercise power. The function of a reporter is to deal with facts. And the facts regarding Sabra and Shatila are deeply shocking.

Souad al-Mere eh was a 14-year-old Palestinian girl, raped during the massacre and shot in the back, a wound which rendered her paralytic. She is now presenting a lawsuit to a magistrate in Brussels. She said, In the name of all of my people, I hope Sharon is tried and hanged for what he did.

Written evidence is to be presented to the court, claiming that Israeli soldiers surrounded the camps where the Palestinian civilians were being held and stopped them from leaving while the Christian militia were carrying out the massacre.

### Dubai to host Executive Council meeting

The third meeting of Executive Council of the World Federation will be held in Dubai from Thursday 6th to Friday 7th September 2001.

The programme will begin with the World Federation Evening for the Community at large on Friday evening which will be followed by a working session of the Executive Council.

### World Federation implements Master Plan for resettlement of Earthquake victims

Following the Gujarat Earthquake on 26 January 2001 and an initial assessment of the earthquake damage, resettlement is expected to be covered in four phases.

Work to provide Immediate Relief (phase 1) and Provision of Temporary Accommodation (phase 2) to the communities of Kutch and Mariya affected by the earthquake is almost complete and the final phases of the resettlement programme now need to be embarked upon.

This involves Assistance for Businesses (phase 3) and a Rebuilding Programme of Permanent Houses and Religious Buildings (phase 4) that were destroyed in the earthquake. This is a more difficult phase in that it can take from one to two years to complete the work and will also require larger financial resources.

#### Assistance to Businesses Introduction

Initially it was thought that the best way forward would be to provide interest free loans through local banks. This process is taking rather long to finalise and is turning out to be quite expensive. It is therefore recommended that the assistance to businesses be given through each of the Jamaats. The Jamaats are better judges of the situation and capacities of their own community members and will be expected to play a leading role in the economic life of the community.

#### Policy

The scope of this project is to assist the businesses which were affected by the earthquake.

While considering loan applications, the Jamaat shall also consider the business of the applicant as at 25 January 2001 and shall consider other debts of the applicant, especially those on which interest is being paid.

Applications for loans should be approved as soon as possible and all

loans are to be paid back in the shortest possible time.

All repayments will be deposited into the Economic Upliftment Fund of the Jamaat. This fund will then be utilized for the ongoing general economic upliftment of the Jamaat members, details of which will be finalised between the Jamaat and the World Federation in due course.

All approved loan applications, repayment of loans and ongoing economic upliftment will be monitored and reported back on quarterly basis.

#### **Action Plan**

Each Jamaat should fully consider the above and propose a procedure for loan assessment, criteria for approval, administration of accounts, procedure for repayments, dealing with defaulters etc.

Following an agreement the World Federation will send funds to respective Jamaats. Once this scheme to assist businesses is under way, the Jamaat should finalise with the World Federation the next stage of assistance which is the ongoing economic upliftment for the whole community.

#### **Permanent Buildings**

#### **Policy**

Each and every new building should be earthquake resistant as per the Government's guidelines.

Those who used to own their houses, should rebuild on their own land or at another place at their own expense. They should be encouraged to do so and should be helped with arrangements of soft loans.

Those who lived in rented accommodation, need permanent houses on rent. These could be built by the community. Those who would like to buy these homes over a period of time, should be encouraged to do so and appropriate agreements will need to be drawn up.

#### Action Plan

Start design process for community housing and religious buildings.

Encourage owner occupiers to start designs for their own homes.

Start construction as soon as practicable and where the Government guidelines on permanent buildings are issued, start construction work without undue delays.

#### Mariya

Of the 28 families (27 male adults, 35 female adults, 19 boys and 24 girls = 105 total), 17 families were living in their own properties, 11 families were living in rented accommodation and of these 2 families are now settled in Bhavnagar for whom suitable accommodation has already been provided.

#### Proposal 1: Settle in Mariya

17 families used to live in houses on their own land. Help them to rebuild their houses by assisting them to obtain soft loans. On completion of each house, each family to be given assistance to settle down.

For the 9 families who lived in rented accommodation, build 5 or 6 suitable one storey accommodation in Mariya on the Jamaat's land next to the Mosque Complex. For the rest and the widows, build flats in the redevelopment plan of the Mosque Complex.

Redevelop the whole property of the Mosque complex to provide for:

- a Mosque (for 50 people includes all men and boys), complete with Wudhu area and toilets.
- an Imambara (for 75 males and 75 females. This allows for 25 extra men and 25 extra women who may come from other towns on major occasions).
- Jamaat Office.
- a Library.
- a Zari Room.

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- a madressa of two rooms.
- an Aalim's flat.
- a room for visitors to stay in.
- flats for remaining people who lived in rented accommodation.
- shops on the front and side of the property. The site is a prime site and it will be a good idea to develop some shops too.

#### Proposal 2: Move to Morbi

Jamaat to locate and purchase a suitable piece of land in Morbi to accommodate the whole Jamaat of Mariya including all the religious facilities.

This proposal will need further discussion as to what to do with the Jamaat s existing lands and properties in Mariya.

#### Nagalpur

Of the 32 families (32 male adults, 36 female adults, 29 boys and 26 girls = 123 total), 20 families were living in their own properties, 12 families were living in rented accommodation.

#### Proposal 1: Settle in Nagalpur

The 20 families who used to live in houses on their own lands, help them to rebuild their houses by assisting them to obtain soft loans. On completion of each house, each family be given assistance to settle down.

For the 12 families who lived in rented accommodation, build suitable one storey accommodation in Nagalpur on the Jamaats land next to the Mosque Complex. Further, redevelop the whole property of the Mosque complex to provide for:

- a Mosque (for 60 people includes all men and boys), complete with Wudhu area and toilets.
- an Imambara (for 85 males and 85 females. This allows for an extra 25 men and an extra 25 women who may come from other towns on major occasions).
- Jamaat Office.
- a Library.
- a Zari Room.
- a madressa of two rooms.
- an Aalim's flat.
- a room for visitors to stay in.

• flats for remaining people who lived in rented accommodation.

The Mosque Complex has a few adjoining houses belonging to people of other communities. These should be bought by the Jamaat so that a convenient complex can be built.

The Jamaat also owns quite a few walf properties, which have now collapsed. These could be sold to buy the properties next to the Mosque or they could also be developed into new dwellings. The Jamaat further owns properties outside Nagalpur (in Bhuj for example). These too can be sold off to help finance the rebuilding programme.

A piece of land could further be bought in Anjar to build a few shops.

The current Mosque land is the best in Nagalpur and shows the foresight of our elders. The above therefore, is a better proposal.

#### Proposal 2: Move to Anjar or Ghandhidham

The Jamaat is thinking of abandoning Nagalpur and moving to Anjar or Ghandhidham. This proposal is also a possibility. New land will have to be bought and the whole Jamaat accommodated there with all the necessary religious facilities.

This proposal will need further discussion as to what to do with the Jamaat s existing lands and properties in Nagalpur.

#### Bhui

Of the 80 families (80 male adults, 87 female adults, 58 boys and 58 girls = 283 total), 34 families were living in their own properties, 46 families were living in rented accommodation.

#### Proposal:

It will take quite some time before the Government gives clear directives on the rebuilding of Bhuj. This affects the 34 families who owned their own properties and would like to rebuild on their own lands. For the present they have been given temporary houses in the New Al Mahdi Society. When permanent rebuilding can commence, help can be availed to them to rebuild their houses through soft loans.

On completion of each house, each family should be given assistance to settle down. Those who do not want to wait for the rebuilding of Bhuj City, could build their homes elsewhere.

For the 46 families who lived in rented accommodation, build suitable accommodation at the new Al Mahdi Society to include a complex for the use of these families. This to include:

- a Mosque (for 140 people includes all men and boys), complete with Wudhu area and toilets.
- an Imambara (for 160 males and 160 females. This allows for an extra 20 men and 20 women who may come from other towns on major occasions).
- Jamaat Office
- a Library
- a Zari Room.
- a madressa of four rooms.
- an Aalim's flat.
- a room for visitors to stay in.

There is more land available adjoining the New Al Mahdi Society that could be used by other families who may want to settle in the area.

A few shops to be built to help some of the shop keepers.

The lands and houses of the old Al Mahdi Colony to be sold off, and the funds used in the rebuilding programme.

The land owner has handed over for the Jamaat's use the 1211 sq yds of community land at the New Al Mahdi Society at no cost to the Jamaat. This land can be used for communal projects, for example a nursery school, a clinic and a garden.

When Government permission is granted, the Mosque complex in the old city to be developed as necessary. It is too early yet to know how many of our people who used to own their own homes, will move back to stay there. Hence a decision to rebuild this should be left pending till the matter is clearer.

#### Kera

Of the 55 Families (81 male adults, 80 female adults, 36 boys and 46 girls

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= 243 total), 48 families were living in their own properties, 7 families were living in rented accommodation. 16 families have been given temporary accommodation on Jamaat s land next to the Mosque.

#### Proposal:

Those who own their own lands, help them to rebuild their houses by assisting them to obtain soft loans. On completion of each house, families to be given assistance to settle down. The houses that have not collapsed are also of the old type of construction and not earthquake resistant. Owners should be encouraged to pull them down and rebuild earthquake resistant homes.

For the 7 families who lived in rented accommodation, build suitable one storey accommodation on Jamaat s land next to the Mosque.

The Mosque Complex needs to be checked for earthquake resistance and to be repaired/strengthened.

#### Mundra

Of the 48 Families (58 male adults, 63 female adults, 37 boys and 24 girls = 182 total), 37 families were living in their own properties, 11 families were living in rented accommodation. 16 families will have been given temporary accommodation.

#### Proposal:

Those who own their own lands should be helped to rebuild their houses by assisting them to obtain soft loans. On completion of each house, assistance to be given to each family to settle down. The houses that have not collapsed are also of the old type of construction and not earthquake resistant. We should encourage the owners to pull them down and rebuild earthquake resistant homes.

For the 11 families who lived in rented accommodation, build suitable accommodation on Jamaat s *Waqf* properties.

The new Mosque to be checked for earthquake resistance and to be strengthened as necessary. The Madressa should be demolished, redesigned and rebuilt. A suitable Imambara should be built to provide for 120 males and 110 females.

The Jamaat owns quite a few properties, which have also collapsed. They need to be looked at objectively for the best possible use of them, and whatever is excess to requirement should be sold to finance the rebuilding programme.

#### **Isolated Families**

There are quite a few families who live in isolation in different parts of Kutch and Gujarat. The isolated families should be helped in a similar manner as above. Those who lived in rented accommodation should be provided with a home as for others. Those who owned their own properties should be helped to rebuild their homes by assisting them to obtain soft loans.

### Update on the Resettlement - June 2001

The earthquake of 26th January 2001 saw complete devastation in Mariya, Nagalpur and Bhuj and to a lesser extent in Kera and Mundra. The numbers of families affected are: Mariya 28 families; Bhuj 80 families; Nagalpur 32 families; Kera 7 families and Mundra 7 families.

Following the earthquake, the first phase in assistance was to ensure that immediate relief in terms of shelter, food, water, medicines etc. was available. In conjunction with the Council of Gujarat and other Voluntary Charitable Organisations, the World Federation was able to ensure that this reached the areas within 24 hours.

The second phase was to provide temporary housing and income support. Since February 2001 monthly income support is being given to each family through their Jamaats and by the middle of June 2001 every affected family in Kutch was supposed to be housed in temporary housing.

The third phase of the work involves the rebuilding of permanent housing, religious centres and economic upliftment of the community. The master plan for the rebuilding programme will take longer to complete and will require huge financial resources. For economic upliftment, interest free business loans are being considered. The thinking behind loans as opposed to handouts is to encourage long term self sufficiency and eradication of dependence by the community. Also, loan repayments will be reutilised for ongoing economic upliftment of members of the Jamaats.

So far with the generosity of our community worldwide approximately £270,000 has been remitted to the World Federation. Efforts are being made to collect the outstanding pledged amounts.

The World Federation has so far spent the following amounts:

Indi	an Rupees
Immediate Relief	400,000
Medical Assistance	100,000
Monthly Income Support	1,500,000
Purchase of Land	1,800,000
<b>Building Temporary</b>	
Houses	5,700,000
TOTAL	9,500,000
	=£140,000

In early June a further purchase of land in Bhuj has been finalised for Indian Rupees 500,000 and negotiations to purchase land in Morbi for the Mariya community is being finalised at the cost of Indian Rupees 6,000,000. This will require approximately £97,000.

By the end of June 2001 the interest free business loan scheme was scheduled to be implemented for which the World Federation would require a further £150,000. The current status of finance is as follows:

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{Total collected} & \pounds270,000 \\ \textbf{Less already spent} & £140,000 \\ \textbf{Less further land purchase} & £97,000 \\ \textbf{Less business loan scheme} & £150,000 \\ \textbf{Deficit} & (£117,000) \\ \end{array}$ 

Further funds are therefore required to meet the deficit and also for the permanent rebuilding programme to provide houses and religious centres. Those who have pledged are requested to send their funds urgently. And those who had been waiting for this phase can now make their donations.

Donations may also be sent online to: http://www.world-federation.org/acatalog.

### Toronto notes...

#### As Sadiq School holds Graduation Ceremony

A Graduation Ceremony at As Sadiq School was held on June 29 at the Elgin West Community Center. Parents, Jamaat Executives and invitees attended this colorful ceremony of Grade eight students. Sisters Salma Muhashamy and Bita Gheisari ably performed the duty of Master of Ceremony. The graduates in green robes and caps were ushered by a computerised Power Point Presentation created by them and individually flashing on a wide screen.

The Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Haider Fazal highlighted the achievements of the School and thanked Toronto Jamaat for allowing free use of the premises at 9000 Bathurst and for subsidizing the budget.

The Principal, Brother Nisar Sheraly eloquently addressed the students and those present and his theme was The Choice is Yours. The ceremony closed with a dua by Syed Muhammad Rizvi followed by a delicious dinner.

#### Progress at Brampton Islamic Center

The proposed Brampton Ahlul-Beyt Islamic Center Project in Toronto is making good progress as application for rezoning was approved in April 18 thereby allowing further work to continue. This is a new Center Project of the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto to cater for those who live in the West of Ontario.

At present the Center is housed in a rented premises and has its own management team which runs a madressa, Tafsir classes by Br.Khalil Jaffer and observes commemoration and celebration of all important occasions.

### Ontario Association holds Annual day

The Association of Progressive Muslims of Ontario held its annual

### Chairlady elected to lead NASIMCO

The Organization of North American Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities (NASIMCO) held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on July 21, 2001, at the Jaffari Islamic Centre at 7340 Bayview Ave. Toronto.

The Conference was hosted by the ISIJ of Toronto, and was graced by executives and delegates from most of the member Jamaats in North America, the Vice-president of the World Federation, Ahmedbhai Hassam, the President of The Africa Federation, Zulfikarbhai Khimji, Member of the Canadian Parliament, Mr. Tony Valeri, and other distinguished guests.

After discussion of several issues, Elections of the Executive Board were held. The issues debated upon included the following:

- 1. Creating an electronic data base of marriageable members thus facilitating contact and link between community members globally
- 2. Revisions of the current NASIMCO constitution to better suit the changing conditions, both demographic and environmental.
- 3. Review of the NASIMCO Task Force Report, initiated at the last NASIMCO conference in Orlando.
- 4. Presentation, discussion and approval of Financial Statement, and budget for the upcoming year.
- 5. Review of NASIMCO s election process.

The following members were then elected:

Sr. Noor Zehra Ebrahim	President	
Br. Raza Ali Kaba	Vice-President	
Br. Safdar Nasser	Treasurer	
Br. Ali Hemani	<b>Executive Counselor</b>	
Br. Asghar Naqvi	Executive Counselor	
Br. Javaid Iqbal Qureishi	<b>Executive Counselor</b>	
Br. Sadiq Jaffer	<b>Executive Counselor</b>	
Br. Sheni Khalfan	Executive Counselor	

The Nasimco Constitution requires an Executive Council meeting once every three months. The Executive Council consists of the Office Bearers, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary General and all Elected Councilors i.e. five elected and three nominated and all Presidents of Member Jamaats.

Canada Day and Muslim Heritage Celebration on June 30<sup>th</sup> and at midnight cut the cake to celebrate July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Day. Three members of our Jamaat were honored. Br. Aly Raza Rajani for his leadership of the Jamaat and outreach to others programs, Sister Noorzehra Ebrahim for her volunteerism and Br.Nisar Sheraly for his dedicated service in the education of Muslim Umma and his volunteer services.

### Muslim Youth Conference held in Kitchner

A National Muslim Youth Conference

organized by the Muslim Youth Association was held on May18 to May 22 in Kitchner. The Keynote address was delivered by Br. Hasnain Rajabali Responsibility of Youth. Dr. Heshmat Mousavi, wife of Iranian Ambassador, spoke on The Impact of Iranian Revolution on Youth. Sheikh Hasnain Kassamali of Vancouver spoke on Empower Yourself Through Knowledge and quoted extensively from the sayings of Imam Ali A.S. Sister Naseem Walji of Nairobi spoke on The V alue of Holy Quran in the Life of Youth The Seminar ended after presentation by various workshop leaders.

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#### **DATELINE TORONTO**

9000 BATHURST PROJECT received a big boost as the plan was unanimously passed without any conditions attached. A special sitting of the City of Vaughn on Monday June11 saw the Council Chamber packed to capacity to hear and participate in the deliberations and debate on the objections of the neighborhood.

As this is a vital project of our community many of our brothers and sisters attended the session to offer support. This included Grade 8 students of As-Sadiq Islamic School who told the Deputy Mayor before the meeting that they where looking forward to having a gym which is one of the features of the project. You will have your Gym now was the remark by the Deputy Mayor directed at the youths when he addressed those present after the plan was approved. There was a murmur of salawat among the students on hearing this good news.

The plan envisages building a multipurpose Center that will accommodate the fast increasing membership of our Jamaat and will have facilities for prayers, majalis, gymnasium, library, cafeteria, fully equipped kitchen and sports facilities for ladies and gents. It will also cater for the needs of As-Sadiq School for their activities. The cost of the project has been estimated at C\$14 million. The Jamaat already has pledges totalling C\$4 million. A systematic fund raising, locally and overseas was to begin in July.

Honorary Government Awards.

The Government of Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 2001 honored eight members of our Jamaat. At an



by Baqir Alloo, Toronto. Federation Samachar

impressive ceremony held on June 6 at Hotel Sheraton Parkway, Provincial Minister David Tsubuchi handed the awards to Laila Roshan Kara, Shireen Sumar, Ali Jaffery, Hassan Jaffer (Tori), Naushad A. Teja, Gulamabbas Amershi, Ahmad Bhaloo and Baqir Alloo.

**Revised Constitution -** The Revised Constitution of the Toronto Jamaat was adopted on June 16 after a healthy debate.

The meeting lasted till 1.00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The revised constitution aims at making the Jamaat proactive with the expansion of the Executive Committee from six elected members to 12 each of whom will have specific duties to attend to. The Executive will also have three ex-officio members, one each from West Center, Jaffery Islamic Youth and Jafferi Senior Citizen Group. The architects of the pro-active concept now reflected in the constitution are Raza Sumar and Shafik Ebrahim.

NASIMCO CONFERENCE was hosted by Toronto Jamaat at the Bayview Center from July 21 and 22. For the first time in the history of Nasimco three candidates contested the Presidency. Karachi born Noorzehra Ebrahim of Toronto became the first female member in our community history to contest for the post of a regional federation and to also win the election. She is from the well-known philanthropic family of Peermohamed Ebrahim and is the present Chairperson of Jiba Ontario.

The other candidate was Mohamed Raza Fazal, ex-President of our Edmonton Jamaat and an active social worker in the Muslim community in Edmonton. He was born in Mauritius and lived in Toronto and Kitchner prior to shifting to Edmonton to run his own business. He was instrumental in the construction of our Jamaat Center in Edmonton. He was also an active member of Toronto and Kitchner Jamaats and was pivotal in

establishing madressa class in Kitchner.

The third candidate was Kampala born Mulla Hussein Walji, ex-President of Minneapolis Jamaat, which he nurtured from its inception. Construction of Husseini Center and Al-Zehra Madressa in Minneapolis are the result of his efforts and leadership. He holds many public posts in Minneapolis and is currently a member of the Executive of the World Federation. He served in various capacities in Kampala Jamaat prior to the 1972 Asian expulsion that brought him to the United States.

JAFFERY ISLAMIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION elected new office bearers recently. Zainab Rasool takes up the post of Director. Other office Bearers are Assistant Director (Female) Farzana Ladha, Assistant Director (Male) Sameer Dattu, and Financial Director Mehjabeen Alarakhia. Misriya Rajani takes up as Recruitment and Development officer. Various committees have been formed to take care of many activities.

CRESCENT VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP commenced on July 3 for five weeks under the trained leadership of Siddika Sumar. The objective is to keep the children busy during the holiday period and to inculcate religious and secular knowledge besides training them in skills and good behavior through games and play. The program includes field trips to various places of interest.

AS-SADIQ ISLAMIC SCHOOL PARENTS/TEACHERS GROUP elected new Executive Members at their meeting held on June 4. Mohamed Ali Jessa, Bilkis Rustom, Mehdi Dharamshi and Masuma Champsi are now the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. PTGL is an active body and supplements extra school activities besides liaisoning between parents and teachers.

# Al Kufa launches ambitious movie project on Imam Husain (a.s.) ..Africa Federation explains status quo

The Al Kufa Media Company, a public share company open to the public at large through US \$ 100 shares have launched a film titled AL-HUSSAIN to portray the fight of Imam Husain (a.s.) in Karbala and to spread his universal message.

The Board of Directors for this project are Sayed Alaa Almusawi, Mohamed Saeed Altureihi, Mohib Ali Nasser, Ali Aldabbagh, Kassem Hawal, Ghulam Ali Virjee and Hussein Ali Paryani.

Some of the Directors including Mohib Ali Nasser, Ali Aldabbagh, Kassem Hawal, Ghulam Ali Virjee, and Hussein Ali Paryani visited towns of East Africa and Madagascar to publicise the project and to generate interest from local members to subscribe for shares in this project.

The project has the backing of Ayatullah Sistani who has said:

#### "In the name of Allah most Gracious most Merciful.

The honourable al-Hajj Ali al-Dabbagh.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh There is no doubt that the projects which reflects the right face and the clear picture of the Islam and its principles and the right school of thought is counted as pioneer starting and important movement which deserves praise and regard. Therefore we wish you prosperity and success in your significant project (film of the Imam Hussein a.s ). As we would like to emphasize on preserving the holiness of the Imamate and its lofty position. Likewise observing the feelings of the nation through full precaution in different parts of the topic. Hence we are calling all the believers to support this project. We are supplicating to the Almighty Allah to guide your steps to the righteousness."

Eminence of the great Ayatullah

al-Sayyid al-Sistani.

On the same project, Ayatullah Khamenei is quoted as follows:

"By name of God No objection if directing is from the trusty sources and protecting the holiness of the subject and having the respect to IMAM peace be upon him and his followers and AhlulBait peace be upon them all. But it is very difficult to maintain the holiness of the subject as it is and the martyr IMAM and his followers, so a proper precaution should be taken in this regard."

Other fatwas in support the project have been issued by Alsheikh Mohammed Mahdi Shamsuldin, Alsayed Saeed Alhakeem, Alsayed Mohammed Alshirazi, Alsayed Mahmood Alshahroodi, Alsayed Alaskari, Alshiekh Altaskheri and Alsayed Mohammed Almusawi.

For further details the media group can be contacted on the following address:

#### E-mail: alkufa@alkufa.com 19A Chelmsford Square London NW10 3AP

Tel: 0208-4598475 Fax:0208-4517059.

Following the launch of this project the Africa Federation was approached by some potential donors and Jamaats seeking approval and authentication of the project.

Following a discussion on the proposed project with the team from Al Kufa that visited East Africa, the Africa Federation as a matter of precaution issued the following circular to explain the situation to constituent Jamaats and potential donors.

#### **Africa Federation Circular**

#### FILM PROJECT ON IMAM HUSAIN (A.S.) - AL KUFA MEDIA COMPANY LIMITED

A delegation of the Al Kufa Media Company Limited promoting the production of a film on Imam Husain (a.s.) and soliciting financial support visited a number of constituent Jamaats in Africa. The Africa Federation would like to clarify its stand on the project for the benefit of its Constituent Jamaats and their members. The Office Bearers of the Supreme Council met with the promoters of the Company to evaluate the Project.

Having given due and careful consideration, the following points merit close examination before any kind of participation in the project is considered:

- 1. The Project has been presented as a business venture by an Off Shore limited liability company registered in the British Virgin Islands, and therefore is not within the ambit of the charitable objectives of the Africa Federation and possibly of the Constituent Jamaats. No official endorsement or participation can be offered from the Supreme Council. This can only be a matter for individuals to consider participation, keeping in view all the legalities of such investments and regulations pertaining to such commercial ventures.
- 2. Not withstanding the above (1), since this has been presented as commercial venture for producing a film, it is necessary to have the script, the key personnel and their respective experiences, credentials and track record of successfully handling such media projects and, a business plan including a detailed income expenditure feasibility, to enable individual participants to make informed decisions about their investment as part of this 8 million dollar project.
- 3. Share Distribution: The brochure by the Al Kufa Media Company outlines that, out of the total 80,000 shares of US \$ 100 each, the pre-initial public offering shares of 40,000 will be open for subscription to founder members whose allocation shall remain intact with the closing of the offer. This means that eight founder members will have controlling shares of 50% and the remaining shares will realize US \$ 4 million. From this one may surmise that each founder member will have

(continued on page 33)

Federation Samachar

#### (...from page 32)

to invest half a million dollars. Therefore, one would naturally assume that the eight founder members would be required to make a commitment to first deposit US \$ 4 million which is their share and then solicit funds from the public. Responding to this issue, the promoters stated that the founder members were not intending to invest US \$ 4 million and yet wished to control 50% shares.

4. Target Audience: In the estimation of the promoters, it is intended to reach an audience of 120 million. According to them, most of them will be Shias. However, even if one assumes all 120 million viewers will be our Muslim brothers from other sects, this film will only reach 10% of the Muslim world over. Given the limited im-

pact and the uncertain target audience figures, the issue our Community has to consider is the justification of investing such a colossal amount of community resources at this point in time when the KSI Community faces grave economic challenges in its own backyard in East Africa and elsewhere?

5. Fatwa: A careful reading of the cautionary edict given by Ayatollah Ali Alkhamanaie appears to cast a shadow of doubt as to whether a film of such a magnitude can actually be shot while protecting the sanctity of the subject matter.

The promoters have meanwhile agreed with the Supreme Council that they shall address the issues raised which shall then be circulated to members of the constituent Jamaats.

The Africa Federation hereby informs

Constituent Jamaats that it has neither endorsed the Company nor the Project. Moreover, as the promoters have been accorded Jamaat platforms to solicit funds for the project, used Community mailing lists to distribute their circulars and approached Community members for investments, the Secretariat feels duty bound to inform Constituent Jamaat members to await clarification on the queries raised.

This circular was meant to enlighten all who sought for official information from the Federation. The decision to pledge support was left to the donors themselves.

Just prior to going to press further communication was exchanged between the Africa Federation and Al Kufa with more clarifications being sought from the Media Company.

### President Bush apologises to Muslims over White House incident

On 29th June, 2001 President Bush apologised to the American Muslim community for an incident at a White House meeting that resulted in a walkout by more than 20 Islamic leaders and activists.

That walk-out came after a Muslim congressional intern was ejected from a briefing on the President's faith-based initiative. No reason was given for the intern's removal from the meeting. Secret Service officials later said they made a mistake in ordering the intern out.

The Presidential Press Secretary Ari Fleischer told reporters: The president is very upset about this. The President is very concerned that an action was taken that was wrong and inappropriate, and the President apologizes for it on behalf of the White House.

In this one instance, the Secret Service made a mistake. They ve acknowledged it; they have said so. They will continue to say so, and the President is concerned about it to the point where he does apologize.

In a letter sent to President Bush by the Council on American-Islamic Re-

lations (CAIR) called for a personal meeting with Muslim leaders to help dispel the impression that Muslims are being excluded from policy-making circles.

The letter also asked Bush to consider establishing a position in the Office of Public Liaison that will work exclusively with the American Muslim community. There are an estimated seven million Muslims in America out of some 1.2 billion worldwide.

### Muslim appeal to the USA

Hundreds of US Muslims and others from around the world have contacted the US Department of State to demand an end to blind American support for Israel s brutal policies against Palestinian Muslims and Christians.

There are signs that efforts of this kind are paying off. United Press International reports that the United States has canceled a regularly scheduled livefree training excercise with Israeli forces. A Pentagon spokesman said he wanted to make it clear that America does not endorse Israel's tactics against Palestinian populated areas.

### Islam grows fast in the USA

Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the United States, and by 2010 it is expected to become the second largest faith practised in the country after Christianity, the State Department's international information programmes has said. The number of mosques in the US is put at 140.

That Muslim-American communities flourished in the United States demonstrates one of the core values of American society the freedom of individuals to worship as they choose, it said.

Freedom of religion is protected by US law and enshrined in the Bill of Rights, it said adding religious pluralism has been a part of the mosaic of American life from the nation s very beginning.

"...the advance of communities depends on the intimate collaboration between those who have money and those who have knowledge, lack of this collaboration results in failure of these communities."

Imam Ali [a.s.]





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# Number of American Mosques grow by 25 per cent

Towards the end of April this year, a national Islamic advocacy group to-day released a major study of the Muslim community in the United States indicating that the number of mosques grew by 25 percent in the past seven years and that mosques are becoming dynamic centers for social and political mobilization.

That report, called The Mosque in America: A National Portrait, is the result of indepth interviews with representatives drawn from more than 1200 American mosques. (This figure is not the total number of American mosques. Smaller or new mosques may have been missed in the count while venues hosting Friday prayers held in places such as businesses and hospitals were also not included in the count.)

During a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) outlined some major findings contained in the survey. This included:

- -Average attendance at Friday prayers
- -Consultative Nature of Mosque Decision making
- -Ethnicity of converts
- -Ethnicity of Muslims
- -Financial Status of American Mosques
- -Increase in Number of Mosque participants
- -Mosque Community Services
- -Mosque Locations
- -Muslim Participation in American Society
- -Number of converts per Mosque per year
- -The entire report can be viewed at http://www.cair-net.org.

Mosques are not only centers for spirituality, they are now bases for political and social mobilization, says the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Executive Director Nihad Awad. CAIR was one of the organisations that sponsored the survey.

Awad added that Muslims are having a positive impact on American society. He cited last year s American Muslim voter registration drive and increased turnout by Muslim voters.

One of the most significant findings in this survey is that mosques are quite ethnically diverse, said Dr. Ihsan Bagby, the report s primary researcher. Bagby noted that 93 percent of all mosques are attended by more than one ethnic group.

There is tremendous growth both in the number of mosques and in the number of those who take part in mosque activities. On average, there are more than 1,625 Muslims associated in some way with the religious life of each mosque. The average attendance at Friday prayer is 292 worshipers. Some 2 million American Muslims are associated with a mosque.

Report findings support conservative estimates of a total American Muslim population of 7 million. The number of participants has increased at more than 75 percent of mosques during the past five years. Growth is witnessed across the board but suburban mosques have experienced the greatest increases.

Conversion rates are steady. On average nearly 30 percent of mosque participants are converts. The average mosque has 16 conversions per year.

Mosques are relatively young. Some 30 percent of all mosques were established in the 1990s and about 32 percent were founded in the 1980s. Four-fifths of mosques are located in a metropolitan area, most often a city neighborhood.

At the average mosque, 33 percent of

members are of South Asian origin (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.), 30 percent are African-American, and 25 percent are from the Arabic-speaking world.

Most mosques are involved in some outreach activities. During the past 12 months, a majority of mosques have done each of the following activities: visited a school or church to present Islam, contacted the media, contacted a political leader, and participated in an interfaith dialogue.

Almost 70 percent of mosques provide some type of assistance for the needy and more than 20 percent of mosques have a full-time school.

More than 90 percent of respondents agree that Muslims should be involved in American institutions and should participate in the political process.

In general, mosque leadership does not appear to be highly formalized or bureaucratic. At the majority of mosques, the leader is a volunteer, works parttime, and is employed outside the mosque.

In a majority of mosques, final decision-making authority rests not with the leader but with a Majlis Ash-Shura (Executive Committee or Board of Directors). In most mosques with a Board, women are allowed to serve as members.

The Mosque in America is the lar gest and most comprehensive survey of its kind to be conducted in the United States. It is part of a larger study of American congregations called Faith Communities Today coordinated by Hartford Seminary s Hartford Institute for Religious Research. Muslim organizations sponsoring the report include CAIR, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA).

Federation Samachar

### CBC report links prayers to terrorism

The Canadian office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) is calling on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to apologize for a news report that seemed to link Muslim prayers to the issue of terrorism.

The report on the conviction of an Algerian national for conspiracy to commit terrorism was broadcast July 13 on the CBC National News. With the call to prayer in the background, reporter Adrienne Arsenault stated: ...and that a number of Algerian migr s in Montreal had also discussed blowing up an Israeli building in a Canadian neighbourhood in the summer of 1999, a plan devised by people with contacts and a history of terrorism ...

Images of Muslim worshippers in a Canadian mosque, along with a minaret were shown during Ms. Arsenault s voice-over. The images, combined with Ms. Arsenault s commentary, clearly implied a link between potential violence, mosques and Canadian Muslim worshippers. This kind of sensationalistic and irresponsible reporting can only induce suspicion of ordinary Canadian Muslims in the minds of the public, said lawyer Faisal Kutty, a member of the CAIR-CAN Board. It also contradicts testimony given by witnesses at the very trial covered by Arsenault. Namely, that the conspirators avoided the mosques or approaching Muslims active in the mosques, he added.

Kutty added that stereotyping of Muslims and Islam is a key factor in many incidents of anti-Muslim discrimination and harassment.

In February, vandals attacked the Manitoba Islamic Center in Winnipeg, smearing the front of the mosque with animal faeces, eggs and white paint. Garbage was also thrown in the area of the mosque. The attack followed a similar incident that occurred in December.

In November, prior to the start of the month of Ramadan, a suspicious fire caused heavy damage to a mosque in

#### Peterborough Jamaat marks Husain Day

The Muslim Khoja Shia Ithna-asheri Community of Peterborough held HUSAIN DAY on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001 to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain (a.s.). Amongst the dignitaries who graced the function was the Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Ray Pobgee. Several other councillors of Peterborough town and leaders of other communities also attended this function.

The function began with recitation of verses from the Holy Qur an by Brother Hasan M. Valji. The Master of Ceremonies, Muhammad Kassamali (formerly residing in Nairobi) then briefly explained the personality of Imam Husain (a.s.) and the tragedy of Karbala.

The Chairman of the M.K.S.I.Jamaat of Peterborough then addressed the audience. He cited various activities undertaken by the community and the historic fact that the Peterborough Jamaat was the first Shia organisation in England to build a mosque.

The Mayor of Peterborough in his brief address expressed hope that the citizens of Peterborough would try to understand and also respect each other s faith.

Sheikh Abbas M. Esmail of Peterborough, presently acquiring higher Islamic studies in Qum, explained the reasons behind the movement of Imam Husain (a.s.) and what happened in Karbala.

The last speaker was Ghulam Shabbir Awan, the Chairman of the Pakistani Community Association who touched on the tragic event of Karbala and the need for all Muslim organisations to work together.

In between the speeches there were two poems read by pupils of the Husaini Madrasah, Shabbir A. Ravji and Hassan I. Manji. The function was well attended by both gents and ladies.

#### Lecture on Islamic Medical History

A good number of members of the Muslim K.S.I.Jamaat of Peterborough attended a recent lecture on Islamic Medical History presented by Farhat A. Husein of Birmingham.

In his lecture, Farhat Husain outlined the positive role played by Muslim scholars in medical science. His informative and educative lecture was well presented. He touched on verses of the holy Qur an and the ahadith of A imma (a.s.) related to medicine. Then he explained the role played by the a imma (a.s.) in transferring medical education to their students and several treatise attributed to some of the Imams (a.s.).

He also spoke of the contribution of the Abbasides in encouraging Muslims to take up education and science and the important part that was played by scholars during that era in medical research.

He proved with documentary proof how non-Muslim scholars studied under Muslim scholars especially in Spain in the medical field. The first medical school set up in Europe studied the books written by Muslim scholars and the first tutors were also Muslims.

He then explained the factors that led to the downfall of the contribution of the Muslims in medical science and how the Muslims since that day have not been able to recover.

Mr. Farhat Husein is an archeologist and historian and has presented his lectures in many universities in England. His book on Islamic Medical History is soon to be published.

Surrey, B.C. No injuries were reported. Prime Minister Jean Chretien sent a message of concern and

sympathy to Muslims across Canada, saying Canadians abhor any cowardly and vicious act of hate.

# IEB consolidates Qur an Library and Research Centre

The Islamic Education Board (IEB) has established a Qur an Library and Research Centre at Dar al Tableegh, Harefield. This is a one-stop site for anyone wishing to undertake a serious study of the Holy Qur an.

The Library at present contains translations of the Holy Qur an in more than 30 languages. More than 200 English books on Qur an have been collected and new ones are being added all the time.

Theses in Farsi on the Holy Qur an, presented at various Universities in Iran, have been obtained. The IEB has also compiled a list of theses in English on Qur an from SOAS (London), University of Jerusalem and Cambridge University. Various other Universities are being contacted to find out whether they have any theses on Qur an in both English and Arabic.

The Library receives Journals on Qur anic Studies like Resalatul Qur an (Arabic) and Tarjumanul Qur an (Farsi). SOAS (London University) have launched a Journal of Qur anic Studies (Arabic and English) to which the library will be subscribing.

A list of more than 1,000 articles on Holy Qur an in English, published in various academic journals, has been compiled. A print copy of these articles will be kept at the Library and some of them will be placed on the IEB Web Site: http://www.quran.org.uk.

This Web Site is updated regularly with new material and articles. Through this site, links are provided to other sites which have material on the Holy Qur an.

For further information please contact: Islamic Education Board of World Federation

Dar al Tableegh, Jackets Lane, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6PZ Tel: +44 (0)1923 823 606

Fax: +44 (0)1923 823 132

Email: ieb@world-federation.org

# Canadian Educators apologise for Islamophobic comments

The President and Vice-Chancellor of York University and the Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School have apologized for an Islamophobic commentary that appeared in the March 12th issue of *Obiter Dicta*, a student newspaper of Osgoode Hall Law School.

The commentary was in response to a series of educational articles on the Shariah by a first-year law student that had previously appeared in the newspaper. The Islamophobic piece titled In Allah We Trust, (http://www.yorku.ca/obiter/march/mar12/Mar12-Allah.html) stated in part: ...children and adults alike of Islam do not have the luxury of CHOICE...precisely because of Islam's oppressive, backward and brutal realities which is an affront to basic human dignity, an Islamic state will never be welcome in the EU...

...there is NOTHING, absolutely nothing spiritual about that Islamic faith. At best, it is a protocol of social conduct, a hybrid if you will of the worst elements of communism and fascism co-existing in a monstrous symbiosis; of oppression and most pervasive and intolerable regulation...

...As for the readers of our paper, all I can say to you is to BEWARE and to beware of the religious fanatics among us and false prophets, who come to you in sheep s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves!

The Canadian office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) wrote to both the President and Vice-Chancellor of York University, Lorna Marsden, and the Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, Peter W. Hogg. The letter read in part:

...Rarely...have we ever encountered the malice and deep-seated prejudice evidenced by Mr. Papasotiriou in his article. Indeed, the article goes far beyond either opinion or scholarly debate; it incites hatred against Muslims and crosses into the realm of hate literature...

In an April 5, 2001, letter to CAIR-CAN, President Marsden wrote in part: ...A formal complaint has been filed against [the student] and the Associate Dean of the Law School, Professor Shelley Gavignan, has begun proceedings in accordance with the Presidential Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students at York University.

On April 9, 2001, Dean Hogg wrote to CAIR-CAN: ...May I say how deeply sorry I am that the offensive article was written by a law student and published in Obiter Dicta, the student newspaper...

Dean Hogg also wrote to the student newspaper. He condemned the article as intolerant, and reminded the student body of Osgoode's commitment to equality and respect. The Junior Editor of the paper also apologized for printing the article. As well, eight students wrote commentaries in the March 19 issue of the paper condemning the bigotry of the article. (See http://www.yorku.ca/obiter/march/mar19/contentsmar-19.html)

It was encouraging to see such fair-minded and swift action from the administration of York University towards such a hateful attack on Islam.



P.O BOX 2699, D'SALAAM, TANZANIA, TEL: 2865777/ 2865557/2865931/2865926 FAX: 2865556e-mail: showmax@raha.com

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#### Mauritius

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11th March 2001, the following office bearers were elected for a three year term. They are as follows:

President: Br. Hornali Hasanali Pirbhai Vice President: Br. Hassenjee Essoufali Moosajee

Secretary: Br. Mohshinali Hasanali Pirbhai

Assistant Secretary: Br. Vasheen Kassamally Esmael

Treasurer: Br. Pyarali Hasanali Pirbhai Assistant Treasurer: Br.Mohamad Iqbal Kassamally Esmael

Member: Br. GoolamAbbas Kassamally Esmael

#### Morogoro

The New Managing Committee of Morogoro Jamaat consists of the following members:

Chairman - Br. Abdulrazak Kermally Hon. Secretary - Br. Shafiq Rajvani Hon. Treasurer - Br. Jaffer Mukhtar Committee Members:

Br. Sajjad Abdulrasul Br. Aliraza Rashid

Br. Hasnein Aunali

Trustees:

Gulamalibhai Rashid Abdulrazakbhai Kermally

Jafferbhai Mukhtar

#### **Tabligh** Committee

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Tabligh Committee of the K.S.I. Supreme Council for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Chairman: Br. Aliraza Nanji Secretary: Br. Abbasali Nanji

Hon Secretary: Br. Fazleabbas Chandoo

Treasurer: Br. Abdulrazak Khalfan Members:

Br. Akber Karawalli

Br. Shabbir A. Janmohamed

Br. Abbas R. Chagpar

Br. Suhel Janmoh d - Msa (Mo-

bile:0733-707-342)

Sis Kulsum Dossa

Sis Deena B. Rajani

Sis Naseem Walji

The Postal address of the Tabligh Sub-Committee is BOX 46325, NAIROBI. Kenya. The contact of the Chairman Br. Aliraza Nanji is:

Tel: (005-2) 535017/534565/557180/ 554087/535016/530306/554077(Office)

(005-2) 748741/744440 (Residence) Fax: (005-2) 552998/535586 Cellular: 0733-86-112

Email: impalaauto@wananchi.com

#### **Executive Councillors to the World Federation**

As is provided in the World Federation Constitution, appointment of the following five Executive Councillors has been made on behalf of the Africa Federation to the World Federation:

Zulfikar H. Khimji -Chairman, Africa Federation

Moajiz Khamis -President of Regional Council, M gascar Mustafa Kanji -President of Kampala Jamaat Asgher Bharwani -President of

Dar es Salaam Jamaat

Masum Meghji -Councillor of Africa Federation.

#### The Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri (South London) Jamaat

At the Annual General Meeting on the 20th May 2001 of the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri South London Jamaat the following were elected to serve for the forthcoming term.

President Dr. Liaket Dewji Vice President Br. Munawer Rattansi Secretary Br. Hassanain Kara Asst. Secretary Br. Salim Somji Treasurer Br. Bagerali Alidina Asst. Treasurer Br. Salim Master Mukhi Br .Sibtain Raza Assistant Mukhi Br. Rizwan Walji Committee Members:

Br. Abbas Panjvani Dr. Akber Mohamedali

The nominated members are:

Br. Ali Taki

Br. Mohsin Janmohamed

#### Stockholm Jamaat

The following office bearers have been elected for the period of year 2001-2002.

President Br. Salim Govani Vice President Br. Arifali Hirji Secretary Br. Asger Hassanali Treasurer Br. Nazarali Hassan Ali

**Committee Members** 

Br. Sadik Badami

Br. Gulamhussein Sumar

Br. Zulfikar Allibhai

#### Husseini Islamic Centre

The Orlando Jamaat held elections in July when the following were elected into office:

President: Mr. Husseinali Yusufali Vice President: Mr. Jabir Chatoo Secretary: Mr. Rizwan Manji

Treasurer: Mr. Ali Bijani Mukhi: Mr. Mohammedraza

Janmohammed

Committee Member: Mr. Abbas Datoo

Trustee: Mr. Ali Virjee

Trustee: Mr. Gulamali Dewji

Trustee: Mr. Mohammedali Bhojani

Trustee: Mr. Zulfikar Ladak

#### ELECTTONS

#### **Education Board**

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Education Board for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer
Member
The Postal address of the Education
Board is P.O. Box 81124, Mombasa,
Kenya.

Br. Iqbal Sunderji
Br. Ahmed Jaffer
Br. Murtaza Nasser
Br. Shaukat Daya
Br. Mehboob Virjee
The Education
Board is P.O. Box 81124, Mombasa,
Kenya.

The contact of the Chairman Br. Iqbal Sunderji is:

Tel: (005-11) 228040/315416 (Office); 228053/220109 (Residence); Email: share@africaonline.co.ke

### Central Health Board (CHB)

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Central Health Board of Africa Federation for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Safdar Jaffer - Chairman
Inayat Alidina - Hon Secretary
Shiraz Rashid
Dr. Jamil Merali
Dr. Dilawar Padhani
Mohamed Mulla
Razahussein Manji
Muntazir Bharwani
Hassan M. Ebrahim
Mohamed Lalji
Mushtaq Damji

The Postal address of the CHB is Box 6710, Dar-es-Salaam and contact of the Chairman Br. Safdar Jaffer is:

Tel No. 2115801 (Office) 2114453 (Residence) 2112728(Fax) email: sajaffer@raha.com

The contact of the Secretary, Br. Inayat Alidina is:
Tel No.2124066 (O)
cellular:0744-373-021
email:ialidina@hotmail.com.

#### **Africa Federation**

The following is the full team of office bearers of the Africa Federation:

Zulfikar H. Khimji Chairman Ramzan M Nanji - Vice Chairman Hussein Rashid - Hon. Secretary Barkat Rajani - Asst. Hon. Secretary Mustafa Pirmohammed - Hon. Treasurer

Mohammed Hassanali - Trustee Kenya.

Ebrahim Kassam - Trustee Uganda Mohammed Manji - Trustee Uganda Aliraza M Nanji - Chairman Tabligh Sub - Committee.

Mohammed Karmali - Chairman Nairobi Jamaat

Munawar Dhanani - Nairobi Jamaat Ashikhussein Rashid - Nairobi Jamaat

#### **Sports Council**

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Sports Council Committee of Africa Federation for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Amir Somji Chairman Tahseel Sheriff Vice Chairman Raza Pyarali Hon. Sect./Treasurer

Members — Arusha Mustafa Panju Salim Chandoo Mubin Lalji Mrs. Farah N. Abbas Mrs. Memoona Alwani

<u>Member - Nairobi</u> Munawer Dhanani

Member - Mombasa Aunali Kanji

Member - Tanga Shabir Sachoo

Members - Dar es Salaam Mrs. Misria Kassam Rizwan Shivji

The Postal Address of the Sports Council is P.O. Box 6069 - Arusha.

The email address of the Chairman is mmtsomji@tz2000.com.

The email address of the Vice Chairman is sheriff@arusha.com.

#### South London

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2001 of the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri South London Jamaat, the following were elected to serve for the forthcoming term.

President Dr. Liyaket Dewji
Vice President Br. Munawer Rattansey
Secretary Br. Hassanain Kara
Asst. Secretary Br. Seleem Somji
Br. Baqerali Alidina
Br. Salim Master
Mukhi Br. Sibtain Raza
Asst. Mukhi Br. Rizwan Walji

Committee Members Br. Abbas Panjvani Dr. Akber Mohamedali President s Nominees Br. Ali Taki Mohsin Janmohamed

#### Settlement and Welfare Board (SETWEL)

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Settlement and Welfare Board (Setwel) of Africa Federation for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Anwarali Dharamsi - Co-Chairman Azim Dewji - Co-Chairman Shakil Dharamsi - Hon. Secretary Afzal Rajani - Hon. Treasurer

Arusha Representatives: Gulamhussein Mukhtar Haider Rahim

The Postal address of the Setwel Board is Box 6710, Dar-es-Salaam and contact of the Co-Chairmen are: Br. Anwarali Dharamsi

Tel: (0) 2115260/2118327/2132464

(R) 2116421/2130732 0741 324 928 (Cellular) (022) 2112585 (Fax)

Email: trh1980@raha.com

Br. Azim Dewji

Tel: 0741 262 233 (Cellular)

The Contact of the Secretary Br. Shakil Dharmasi is:

Tel: (O)2115260/2118327/2132464/ (R) 2153040; 0744-283-222(Cellular)

Fax: 2112585

Email: trh1980@raha.com

#### ELECTIONS

### Nominated Councillors — 2001 - 2004

The Chairman Alhaj Zulfiqar Khimji as per clause 21 (d) of the Constitution has made the following appointments:

Br. Iqbal Sunderji Chairman — Education Board Br. Safdar Jaffer Chairman — Central Health Board Br. Munir Daya Editor — Federation Samachar Br. Amir Somji Chairman — Sports Council Br. Hassan A. Jaffer Chairman — Strategic Planning & Resource Committee (SPARC) Br. Aliraza Nanji Chairman - Tabligh Sub-Committee Br. Anwerali Dharamsi Br. Azim Dewji Chairmen - Setwel Board

Br. Masumali Meghji — Mombasa Br. Roshan Jameel - Madagascar Br. Gulamhusein Mukhtar — Arusha Br. Asgher Dhanji — Daes-Salaam Br. Shiraz Rashid — Daes-Salaam

#### **Trollhattan**

In a General Meeting of the Trollhattan Jamaat held on Saturday 28th April, 2001, the following members were elected to the Managing Committee to serve the Jamaat for the next term.

Chairman Mahmood Ladha
V. Chairman Mehboob Kanani
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer Anvar Alladin
Mukhtar Hirani
Committee members:

Salim Kanani Sameer Panjwani Saklain Rajpar

#### Editorial Board of the Federation Samachar and the Africa Federation Web Page

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the appointment of the Editor of the Federation Samachar and members of the Editorial Board for the current term 2001 to 2004. They are as follows:

Munir Daya Editor and Web Page Manager

Mukhtar Damji Deputy Editor cum Administrative Secretary

Amirali Shams Virjee Production Editor for Web Page and the Samachar

Sakina Dewji Sub-Editor (women pages)

Abdul Datoo Advertising (Samachar and Web Page)

Murtaza Jivraj Photographs and archives

Distribution in Dar es Salaam: Salim Kassam

Distribution to all other Jamaats and Web input:

Fatim Nazir Haji Fatima Moh d Patel

North American Edition:
Baqir Alloo - Deputy Editor
Nazmul Damji - Production Editor
Ghulam Sajan - Advertising and distribution

The Postal address of the Federation Samachar Board is P.O. Box 6710, Dar-es-Salaam.

The email address of the Editor, Br. Munir Daya is samachar@raha.com. The cellular line of the Editor is 0744 781811.

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# From the Nahjul Balagha

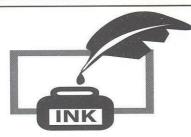
# Letter to the hypocrite Ash ath bin Qays when he upsurped public funds

Ash ath bin Qays was a hypocrite and time-sever. For sometime he attached himself to Imam Ali (a) pretending to be his sincere follower. The ulterior motive behind this was to amass wealth and to grasp power. Imam Ali (a) had appointed him as the Governor of Azarbaijan. He started collecting and procuring wealth by every means possible. When this was reported to Imam Ali (a), he wrote the following letter to Ash ath: On receipt of this letter he wanted to abscond with the wealth so amassed but good counsels prevailed upon him and he was persuaded by Hujr bin Adi Kindi to got to Imam Ali (a). When his accounts were audited he had to surrender 400,000 dirhams.]

"Verily, you have neither been entrusted with the governorship so that you amass wealth nor is it a tasty and juicy morsel to be swallowed up. On the contrary it is a trust committed to your care and trust. Its responsibility lies upon your shoulders.

Your Amir (meaning Imam Ali himself) has appointed you as a shepherd and a guardian of the people. You have no right to do as you like and to act independently without seeking his advice and permission. In all important affairs of the State and the public, your decisions must be based on true facts and sound reasons. In your control and custody there is one of the treasuries of Allah, you are only a treasurer, you have no right to make personal use of any part of this wealth, it is your duty to pass it on to whom it belongs.

I hope you will not give me a chance to prove myself a hard task-master and a harsh administrator. May you see the light."



### **Death Jottings**

### inna lillaahi wa inna ilaihi raajiuun

The following deaths have been reported since the last issue of the *Federation Samachar* which carried death announcements to 5th April, 2001, 10th Muharram 1422.

Mrs Aminabai Merali Kassam of Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 1st August 2001, 11th Jamadil Awwal, 1422

Alhaj Husayn Kasamali Alidina of Dar-cs-Salaam on Sunday 29th July 2001, 8th Jamadil Awwal, 1422

Mrs Fatmabai Mohamedtaki Hassanali Hasham of Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 25th July 2001, 4th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1422

Mrs Jenabai Ladhu Gulamhussein of Arusha on Tuesday 17th July 2001, 25th Rabi- ul- Aakhar 1422

**Mrs FatmaZehrabai Habib Asharia** of Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday 14th July 2001, 22nd Rabiulakhar 1422.

Marhum Anverali Mohamed Rafiq who passed away in Mombasa on Tuesday 10th July 2001 18th Rabi ul Akhar 1422.

Marhuma Fatmabai Hassanali Pirbhai, London, United Kingdom, 10 July 2001, 18 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhuma Khairoonbai Pyarali Meherali Hooda of Mwanza, Tanzania, 9 July 2001, 17 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhum Haji Amirali Rajabali Nasser Ratansi of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 8 July 2001, 16 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhuma Rubabbai Anwer Esmail Lalji of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 5 July 2001, 13 Rabi ul Aakher 1422. Marhuma Zahra Zakirhussain Jaffer, London, United Kingdom, 2 July 2001, 10 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Mazaher Murad Kanji Abdallah of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 30 June 2001, 8 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhum Dr. Mohammed Raza Pirani, Karachi, Pakistan, 26 June 2001, 4 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhuma Nurbanubai Mohammad Bandali of Tanga, Tanzania, 23 June 2001, 1 Rabi ul Aakher 1422.

Marhum Ayatullah Al Udhama Sayyid Husayn Bahr ul Uloom, Najaf, Iraq, 22 June 2001, 29 Rabi ul Awwal 1422.

Marhum MohammedHussein Raza Hasham (Babu Malai) of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 11 June 2001, 18 Rabi ul Awwal 1422.

Marhum Hassan Jaffer Mawji, Mombasa, Kenya, 4 June 2001, 11 Rabi ul Awwal 1422.

Marhuma Zabunnisa Fidahussein Panjwani, Songea, Tanzania, 3 June 2001, 10 Rabi ul Awwal 1422.

**Ustad Abdallah** of Zanzibar on Sunday,3rd June 2001, 10th Rabi-ul-Awwal,1422.

Mrs Zehbunbai Fidahusein Panjwani of Jamnagar India on 4th June 2001, 11th Rabi-ul-Awwal,1422.

Mrs Tasneem Syed Muzafferali Shah on Friday, 1st June 2001, 8th Rabiul Awwal 1422.

Mrs Shirinbai Abdulrasul Virjee of Dar-es-Salaam on Thursday, 31st May 2001, 7th Rabiul Awwal 1422.

Mrs Laylabai Muhammad Fazal Kassam of Dar-es-Salaam on Sunday 27th May 2001, 3rd Rabiul Awwal 1422.

Mrs NoorJahanbai Anwar Haji Muhammad Ukera - Dar-es-Salaam on Friday 25th May 2001, 1st Rabi ul Awwal, 1422.

Mrs Zainab-bai Hussein Kassam, Dar-es-Salaam on Friday 18th May 2001, 24th Safar 1422.

Haji Amirali Mohamed Abdulla Khimji, Dar-es-Salaam on Thursday 10th May 2001, 16th Safar 1422.

Haji Ali Ackbar Kassamaly Esmael of Mauritius on Wednesday 9th May 2001, 15th Safar 1422.

Late Haji Ali Ackbar Kassamally Esmael was a Past President of the Mauritius Jamaat for the year 1980-84.

**Haji Hon. Abbas Gulamali** of Dares-Salaam on Tuesday 8th May 2001, 14th Safar 1422.

Marhum was an M.P. for Kilombero in Tanzania and also a trustee of dar es Salaam Jamaat.

Haji Mehboob MuhammadYusuf Abdulrasul Bandali of Tanga on Sunday 6th May 2001, 12th Safar 1422.

Mr Munir AbdulKarim Ladak of Dar-es-Salaam on on Thursday 3rd May 2001, 9th Safar 1422.

**Sukainabai Muhammadali Datoo** of Arusha on 30th April 2001, 6th Safar 1422.

**Haji Muallim Abdulrasul Muhammad Khakoo** of Zanzibar on
Sunday 29th April 2001, 5th Safar
1422.

**Haji Mahmood Asgharali Dewji** of Toronto on Friday 27th April 2001, 3rd Safar 1422

Mr. Fidahussein Rashid Manek (Thakro) of Moshi on Monday 23rd April 2001, 28th Muharam 1422.

Marhuma Josylin Valji, New Zealand, 18 April 2001, 23 Muharram 1422.

Marhuma Sugrabai Akberali Tarbhai Hudda, London, United Kingdom, 12 April 2001, 17 Muharram 1422.

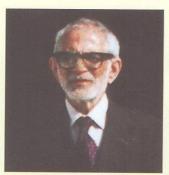
**Haji Raza Fazal Dhirani** of Arusha on Monday 9th April 2001, 14th Muharram 1422

Marhuma Sherbanu Hasanali Bhanji of Dar-es-Salaam - Expired in London on Sunday 8th April 2001 - 13th Muharram 1422.

Federation Samachar

#### INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAYHI RAJEUN

#### Master Abdulrasul Mohamedali Khaku



Sunday morning was a sad day for us when we got the news of the passing away of my friend Master Abdulrasul Mohamedali Khaku at a ripe age of 80 years. Abdulrasulbhai was my teacher, my mentor and my collogue as I served as Hon. Secretary when he was President of the Education Society in Zanzibar.

He was a pious man and had a burning desire to see that our boys and girls achieved the highest standard of education. The establishment of the Education Society ushered a new phase in our community. His motto was proper foundation and to achieve this he spearheaded the construction of a modern Nursery School that became the best one in Zanzibar.

He then persuaded the trustees of the Datu Hemani Girls School to entrust the administration of the girl school to the Society. He knew well the weak points of the school and within no time brought it to a standard that came in par with the St Joseph Girl School which was considered to be the top most primary school in Zanzibar then.

Our Ithna-Asheri girls reverted to Datu Hemani School after seeing its progress. Simultaneously he established Coaching Classes for boys and girls who were in standard eight in the primary schools. This also resulted in more of our children qualifying for admission into secondary schools that had limited intake capacity.

For those who were left out, boys of our community and of other communities as well he initiated a secondary school at the Dharmsi Gangji Madressa Building. For this he had to apply all his tact and negotiating skills to get permission from the Education Department.

The effort that he put in the recruitment of teachers was masterly and took a lot of his time. Only after a year he was able to show the result to the British Authorities and received high praise from the Education Department.

We were a small band of workers and he instilled in us the zeal and knowhow, which produced unbelievable results. The team included Alhaj Husseinbhai Dharamsi Gangji, Marhum Mohamed Hussein Sheriff Dewji, Gulamabbas Dhalla, Mulla Mohamedhussein Dharmsi Kermali, Alhaj Basheer Peera, Marhum Akber Dharsi, Alhaj Akber Thaver, Alhaj Hamza Chatoo and myself.

Some two years back I wrote to Munir Daya, the Editor of Africa Federation Samachar paying tribute to Marhum and to Husseinbhai Dharamsi Gangji. The letter was published and I received many positive comments from readers.

Ma lim has gone to His Creator but has left his footsteps behind. Let us remember him with prayers and sadaqat - Al-Fateha.

To his family we convey our heartfelt condolences. We share your grief and pray to Allah swt to honor him with a lofty place in Jannat in proximity of His Chosen Ones. - Ameen.

Obituary by Alhaj Baqir Alloo of Toronto who was a close accomplice to Marhum.

#### Alhaj Dostmohamed Gulamhusein Moledina



On 6th October, 2000 Alhaj Dostmohamed Gulamhusein Moledina of Moshi passed away in Nairobi at the age of 79 years.

Marhum was an active community worker and his services were rewarded by presentation of a Husseini Medal in 1968. It was on 18th March, 2001 that Alhaj Mohamedali Meghji, then Chairman of the Africa Federation, presented him this medal for his various services to Moshi Jamaat and the Africa Federation.

Marhum was the Hon. Secretary and trustee of Moshi Jamaat from 1961. He also was the Chairman of Moshi Jamaat's Jaffery Sports Club and a Councillor of the Supreme Council from 1958.

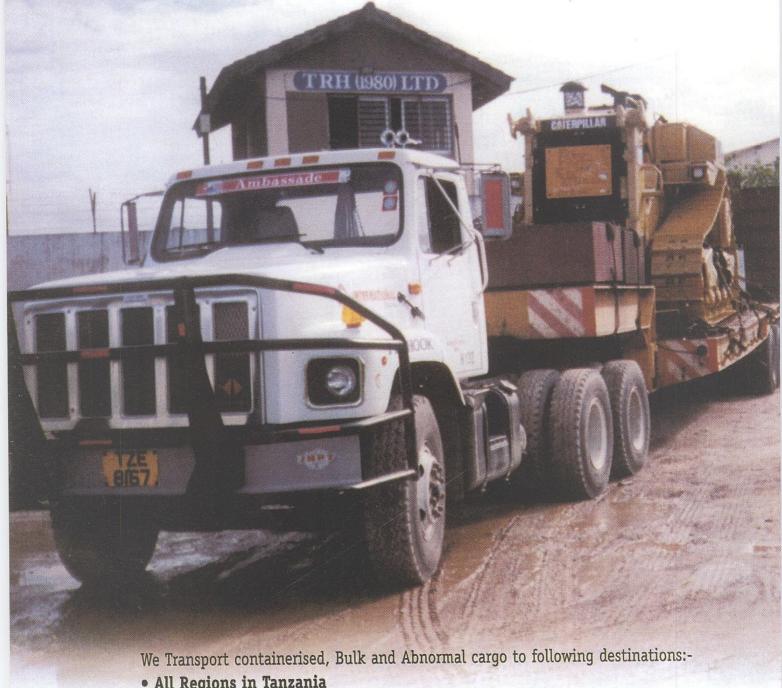
He actively supervised the construction of the beautiful Moshi Mosque, Imambara, Madressa and Musafarkhana. He also supervised various other Jamaat construction projects including the Jaffery building, Al-Ghadeer Arcade, Haji Noorali Memorial Building and the Sameer squash court at the Jaffery Sports Club.

In addition to serving the community he also actively served as a member of various Government organisations including the Moshi Town Council, the Rent Tribunal, the Hospital Advisory Board and was a committee member of the Moshi Primary and Secondary School Education Committee.

He leaves a widow, three sons, eight grandchildren and one great grand daughter. May Allah (s.w.t.) rest his soul in eternal peace. Amen.

The above obituary could not be carried in our previous issues because pertinent details were not available. We regret for any inconvenience caused. Editor.

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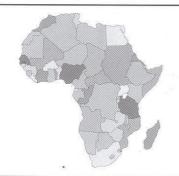
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### Around Africa

# AFED Special Commission inspired to develop the next generation

More than a third of the community s total population is made up by our youth. Thus, the higher the quality of life we provide them, the more we will be preparing a generation of sound citizens who can play an active part in the development of society. The western world, including our own community in the West, budgets sizeable revenues on their young citizens by providing them with community centers, affordable sports facilities, psychological support and counseling, and the necessary guidelines on sex education. However, unlike the older generation, the exposure to various harmful vices in this new generation s daily lives makes them easier prey to go astray. The issue is not whether our youths succeed in building a better tomorrow, but whether they have the tools to positively contribute to society in an evershrinking world.

The historic address of Br. Zulfikar Khimji, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Africa Federation, at the Daressalaam Imambargah on the eve of the wiladat of the Prophet (PBUH) focusing on the need for education enhancement has undoubtedly paved the way for the community to think and forge ahead on educational issues.

Our motivated leadership has assuring us that they will deliver as promised if given adequate support and resources. This would make attainment of earmarked goals possible. Accordingly, the Council's Executive Committee has assigned a Special Commission of community members to pur-

sue this matter. With a die-hard motto

— Inspired to Develop The Next Generation — the Special Commission has been entrusted to prepare a study focused on the constituent jamaats of Africa under AFED on education enhancement and youth advancement.

The issue at hand, or the term of reference, is detailed as follows:

- 1. Establishing an Institution of Higher Education. It is proposed that a postsecondary educational institution is initially established with a broader vision to launch a fully-fledged university on a 32-acre lot across the ferry in Dar es salaam. The Special Commission is to study the various aspects concerning the need for such an institution, the student population, with particular focus on females, from AFED constituent jamaats who will potentially take advantage of such a facility, the needs of the community, the viability and sustainability of the project, and numerous other aspects relating thereto.
- 2. Alternatively, explore the possibility of other venues available or on offer in major cities where our community has a good presence. This is a cost-effective alternative and can be made available to community members seeking post-secondary almost immediately through affiliations with institutions of higher education abroad. This also may give us the motivation to embark on the University project sooner.
- 3. Prepare a road map within the

AFED master plan with an emphasis on youth development and education enhancement.

- 4. Scholarship Endowment Scheme. AFED has received 39 applications for student loans and, provided that each applicant meets yet-to-be-established selection criteria, AFED wishes to favorably process every application. The Executive Committee has entrusted the Special Commission to propose the selection criteria and study the features of the scholarships offered. In addition to above proposal, the Special Commission will seek to establish: a system of on-line application forms, including the qualifications and admissions criteria; a network of foreign-based students and career counselors; recommended institutions; stronger ties with our communities abroad; distant administrators and advisors; subscription subsidies; direct payments to institutions; progress reports; payback schemes; and, links to the alumni community.
- 5. Career Guidance and Placement. In addition, the Special Commission will propose venues for guidance, semi-annual seminars, and on-line executive courses for career enhancement.

Community members wishing to contribute their intellectual ideas and valuable suggestions to the Special Commission may send their mails to the Chief Coordinator, Br. Akber Jaffer on whyeducation@hotmail.com and/or the AFED Secretariat Br. Hussein Rashid on ali@saamnet.com. The Special Commission is comprised of the following members:

Br. Hussein Rashid AFED Secretariat Br. Murtaza Datoo Chairman, CETAB WF

Br. Iqbal Sunderji Chairman, AFED Education Board

Br. Mohammed Hassanali Trustee, AFED

Br. Alimohomod Bayani Consultant — Education

Br. Irfan M. Dinani Research, Student Guidance and Publications

Br. Shafiq Abdul Rasul Graphic Designing, Newsletters and Youth Development

Br. Akber Jaffer Chief Coordinator AFED.

# Mombasa marks Husayn Day intellectually

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001, a full day seminar for secondary school students was organised by the Jaffery Academy in Mombasa in co-ordination with the Ithna-Asheri Young Men s Union and the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya. Invitations were extended to 56 schools in the Coast Province of Kenya. Prominent members of various communities were also invited to attend. A total of 593 students representing 40 different schools participated.

This was the third time that the Husayn Day in Mombasa was convened in the form of a seminar, a change from the traditional format of Husayn Day sessions. This year the theme selected was 'Reviving Islamic values'.

Participants were provided with clipboards at the time of registration which contained the following:

- Booklet in Kiswahili entitled: ASHURA - SHAHADA YA IMAM HUSAYN (A.S.).
- Article in English entitled: IMAM HUSAYN BIN ALI - the Martyr of Karbala.
- Programme
- · Points for Group Discussion
- Evaluation Form.

Proceedings commenced at 9:15 a.m. with recitation from the Holy Qur an followed by translation in English by Hassanali Kassam and Muhammad sarvar Jagani, students of the Jaffery Academy.

Welcoming the participants, a student of Jaffery Academy, Abbas M. Karim explained the purpose of holding the Seminar and introduced the Chairman, Shariff Ahmed Alawy who is a prominent Muslim elder famous for services rendered by him in the Coast Province of Kenya.

The Chairman outlined the role and scope of the chosen theme, explained

the procedure for conducting the Seminar and introduced the speakers.

The first speaker: Mohamedfayaz Hasnain Janmohamed, a student of Jaffery Academy spoke on the subject Role of students in reviving Islamic values. He demonstrated the aping nature of students in trying to copy the western norms of behaviour. He appealed to his fellow students to identify Islamic values and save themselves from being influenced by the media.

Ustadh Abdulrahman Mwinyifaki, an Educationist (M.Ed) and Principal at the Islamic Teachers Training College, Mombasa, then presented a paper on the same subject. He defined the meanings of role and revival and deliberated at length on the values prevalent prior to the dawn of Islam and the role played by the holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) in reforming society and inculcating Islamic values. He requested students to study Islamic history in detail and to emulate the example set by the Holy Prophet and follow him as a role model for behaviour.

During the question/answer session, he cited specific examples of the ills of society at homes, in schools and other places. Ustadh Abdulrahman prescribed ways and means of reviving Islamic values and urged students to identify and absorb them in day-to-day life. He said Muslims should take pride in being counted as Muslims and reform the society at large in a just manner through their Islamic behaviour. Twenty-six questions were posed to him of which he could answer only a few due to paucity of time.

The third speaker was Sheikh Abdilahi Nassir a renowned Muslim Scholar and social worker. He deliberated on the subject: Karbala - Revival of Islamic values. He described how systematically the Islamic values were eroded after the demise of the holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.). Dwelling on the finer points of history, he explained that barely fifty years after the demise of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) an attempt was made by the ruler of the time, Yezid bin Muawiya bin Abusufyan to obliterate Islamic principles by openly ridiculing Islamic values. In order to put a seal to his design, Yezid tried to obtain allegiance of the grandson of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.w.) which led to the event of Karbala and the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (a.s.) - consequently resulting in awakening the conscience of mankind and revival of Islamic values.

Sheikh Abdilahi concluded by stating that there is no room for double standards in Islam and there can be no compromise on principle values. He urged the students to be vigilant and not to shy away from identifying themselves as Muslims.

During the question/answer session which lasted for half an hour, twenty-eight questions were asked to him but he could do justice to only few questions due to limitation in time.

The main session of the Seminar adjourned at noon for prayers and lunch.

Participants were then divided into six groups in each of the male and female sections for group discussions which were carried out in the classrooms of the Jaffery Academy.

All the groups were given specific points related to the theme for discussion as tabulated below:

#### GROUP A:

Identify Islamic Values for prevention of AIDS and DRUG ABUSE and suggest ways and means for reviving these

(continued on page 47)

#### (..... from page 46)

values. Discuss and identify FOUR main points.

#### GROUP B:

Role of Muslim students associations in reviving Islamic values in schools, colleges and universities. Discuss and identify FOUR main points.

#### GROUP C:

Role of the Mosque / Madrasah / School in reviving Islamic values. Discuss and identify FOUR main points.

#### GROUP D:

Identify Islamic Values essential for creating a healthy environment at home and in society at large and suggest ways and means for promoting such values. Discuss and identify FOUR main points

#### GROUP E:

Role of Islamic Values for the protection / preservation of environment - identify the specific values and suggest ways and means for the promotion of these values. Discuss and identify FOUR main points.

#### GROUP F:

Role of society in promoting Islamic Values - identify specific roles of individuals, families and organisations. Discuss and identify FOUR main points.

After two hours of deliberations, group leaders presented their reports and recommendations at the plenary session.

The seminar concluded at 5:05 p.m. with a firm resolve on the part of the participants to bring about Revival of Islamic values at homes, educational institutions and society at large, and a vote of thanks was proposed by one of the participants.

If I cut a faithful Muslim into pieces to make him hate me, he will not turn into my enemy and if I give all the wealth of this world to a hypocrite to make him my friend he will not befriend. It is so because the Holy Prophet has said: "O Ali! No faithful Muslim will ever be your enemy and no hypocrite will ever be your friend."

Imam Ali (a.s.)

IIIIaiii

# Mombasa girl wins essay on humanity

Mombasa's Tahera S. Khaki who studies at the Jaffery Academy won an essay writing competition, the theme for which was 'Human Rights and Poverty' organised by the Legal Resources Foundation (Kenya) which is a project of the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

A total of 117 entries were received by the Foundation from 46 different secondary schools around Kenya. The essays were graded by a panel of three judges comprising of a human rights lawyer from the Attorney General's Office, a journalist from the East African Standard Newspaper amd a teacher from Starehe Boys Centre and School. The highest score was 90% (18/20) by Tahera and the lowest was 25% (5/20).

Other details of the scores are as follows:

Mean 55%

Highest score: 90%

Lowest score: 25%

Poor (0-49%) 32 entries

Average (50-69%) 66 entries

Good (70% and above) 19 entries

The Academy submitted two entries, the other being of Zahoor A. Khandwalla whose essay was ranked in the above 70% category. A book token worth KShs. 10,000/- was presented to the Academy while Tahera won a cash prize of KShs. 5000/-

In a letter dated 10th June, 2001 addressed to the Headteacher of the Academy, the Programme Officer of the Legal Resources Foundation praised the Academy saying "....congratulations. LRF hopes that more and more schools will take your lead and offer a more balanced education that allows for students to become informed on human rights issues affecting the country."

### Sports revived in Tanga



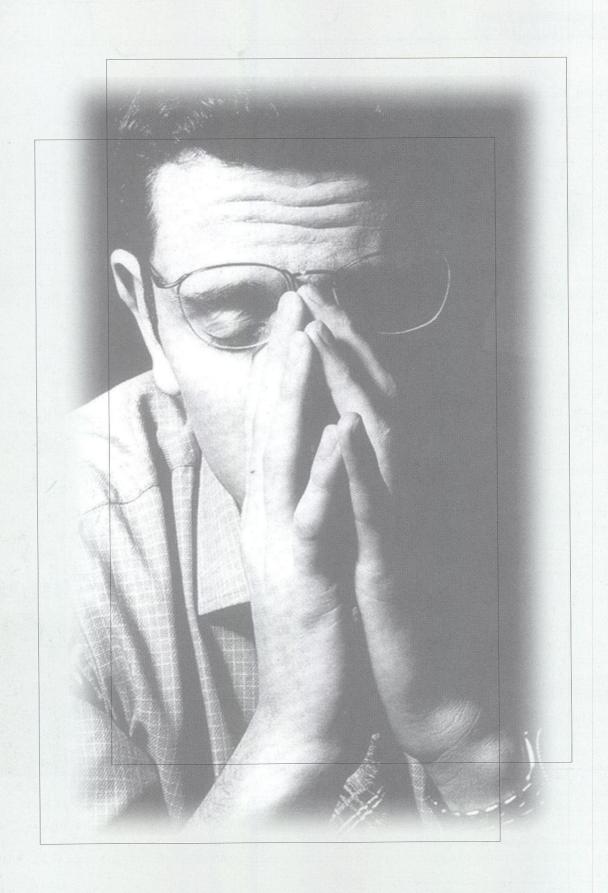
Tanga's Sports Committee, from left to right, Hassan M. Dhirani, Mustafa G. Kara, Shabbir M. Sachoo and Muntazir E. Fazal

Following the formation of a Sports Committee in November last year, the football, volleyball and cricket sections have been revived. The new committee hopes to hold competitions more often in order to encourage youths to take part in sports.

The Football section is captained by Hassan M. Dhirani, with Mujahid M. Chandoo being the Vice Captain and Hussein M. Dhirani a committee member.

The Volleyball section is captained by Hussein M. Y. Dhirani while Mustafa G. Kara is the Vice Captain and Hussein M. Dhirani a committee member.

The Cricket Captain is Mujahid M. Chandoo while Muntazir E. Fazal is the Vice Captain and Mohamedkazim S. Bhaloo a committee member.





Health, Fitness, Leisure

# "Health is physical, mental and social well being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." W.H.O.

The Physical Approach To Better Mental Health

The mind was viewed as completely distinct from the body- mental health, therefore was supposedly unrelated with the physical health. This long-enduring misconception unfortunately remains to this day. Recent scientific studies have proven beyond doubt that the body and the mind are inseparably linked together.

Mental functions such as memory are clearly physical, and mental function carried out by the brain often trigger physical changes in other parts of the body. The racing heart, dry mouth, and sweaty palms that accompany a terrifying nightmare are orchestrated by the brain. Conversely, stressful life events-even for people at the peak of mental health and functioning-erode quality of life and place people at risk for symptoms and signs of mental disorders. Just as changes in brain chemistry can affect behavior, it is also true that changes in behavior can affect brain chemistry. For that reason, physical activity is one means to help individuals cope with stressors and adversity as well as enhance somatic health.

Indications also are that mental health status is improved for some people through the psychosocial aspects of physical activity, such as having the opportunity for social interaction and support, experiencing increased feelings of self-mastery and self-efficacy, and experiencing time away from daily stressors. In particular, some researchers have suggested that exercise therapy stands out as a cost-effective alternative treatment for adolescent girls, who experience depression at twice the rate of adolescent boys. Exercise can offer adolescent girls improved body image, self-esteem, and competency, and can also promote physiological well being with its increased energy and improved sleep and eating patterns.

As valuable as these activities may be for promoting mental health, they have received less research attention than have interventions for mental disorders. That should not deter us from advocating physical activity as part of a comprehensive strategy, since there are so many well-established benefits.

We need more advocates for physical activity across the country, and we need communities to provide environments that are conductive to people incorporating physical activity into their lives. Fortunately, our community has achieved this by providing safe walking and biking paths and by hosting fitness-oriented sporting activities.

The fitness industry is in a position to play an important part in this effort. We at Elite City look forward to working with you for the sake of healthy bodies, minds, and spirits.

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# Jamaats called upon to respond to AF Circular

Following a circular dated 19th June, 2001 (26 Rabi ul Awwal, 1422) by the Africa Federation, all constituent Jamaats of the Africa Federation were required to return an indepth survey form to the Africa Federation Secretariat by 31st July, 2001. Those Jamaats which have not done so are requested to send in their particulars urgently by email federation@raha.com or directly to the Africa Federation head office in Nairobi by email barkatlife@iconnect.co.ke.

The particulars asked for include:

- -Jamaat Name
- -Postal Address
- -Phone/s
- -Fax
- -Email
- -Website
- -Population (numbers)
- -Govt or Charity Registration
- -Contact name and pertinent address (one name to be provided)
- -Details of Managing or Executive Committee (names and post)
- -Attach copy of Jamaat Constitution
- -List of sub-committees with details to include title of sub-committee,name of Chairman and activities undertaken.

Details of Madressa/School (Nursery/Junior/Middle/Higher). For these institutions Jamaats were asked for the following details:

- -Address or location
- -Principal's name
- -Number of Teachers
- -Number of Students (male and female)
- Age Range of Students
- Number of classes
- Days and times of operating
- Subjects Taught

### Masjid,Imambara and Mehfil Details

For institutions having a different address for their religious institutions, details were requested for separately with pertinent photographs and map directions to the Masjid, Imambara or Mehfil.

Board of Trustees/Trust Property Federation Samachar

#### Details

Full details were requested for including:

- -Trust Name
- -Address

- -Bequeathed by
- -Trust Valuation
- -Trust Deed Reference

Also required for submission are pictures and copies of Trust Deeds.

### JSS consultant visits East Africa

An Immigration Consultant from the Jaffari Settlement Services (JSS) for migration to Canada, Roshan Remtulla visited Kenya and Tanzania from 8th June to 28th June 2001 to meet prospective applicants wishing to migrate to Canada.

The visiting Consultant met a fair number of community members in Nairobi, Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Moshi and Tanga.

The Setwel Board Representative for migration, Shabbir Manekia accompanied him to some of the towns and arranged for hosting of two seminars in Dar es salaam, one for businessmen and the other for independent applicants and professionals.

During these seminars pertinent handouts and literature were distributed and a 55 minutes video footage on Canada was shown. Entrepreneurs and Investors were advised on the opportunities available to them while the skilled and semi-skilled professionals were also informed on various opportunities available for them. For example participants were told that there is a good demand for cooks and bakers, both of which have a limited scope in East Africa.

In addition to the seminars, Roshanbhai also undertook a one to one basis interview for individual applicants.

Prior to his visit, the Africa Federation advised members of the Jamaats that were not being visited by Roshanbhai to meet up with him at any of the Jamaats he visited.

Prospective migrants were required to fill in a form to enable preliminary screening with no guarantee being given that the application would be successful. Essentially this preliminary application requires a detailed resume and CV including personal details and academic qualifications. On the same forms applicants were asked to confirm if they had any relatives in Canada including grand parents, parents, brothers, sisters, neice, nephew, uncle or aunt.

Application fees for Permanent residency for an adult, spouse or dependent over the age of 19 years is Can\$ 500. For a dependent under the age of 19 years the fee is Can\$ 100 while for a business apllicant the fee is Can\$ 1000. Landed fees for adults are Can\$ 975.

The Jaffari Settlement Services fees are as follows:

Professional Category: Can \$ 2500

Payment is to be made in two instalments of Can \$ 1250 each. The first instalment is payable upon signing the retainer agreement and the second instalment before delivery of visas.

Business Category: Can \$ 4000

Payment is to be made in two instalments of Can \$ 2000 each. The first instalment is payable upon signing the retainer agreement and the second instalment before delivery of visas.

For those who wish to pursue this avenue, preliminary forms and advise can be obtained from:

Br. Shabbir Manekia P.O. Box 2504 -DAR-ES-SALAAM

Tel: (022) 2117721 (O) 2114610 (R)

Email: manekia@raha.com

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#### Dar Jamaat launches Dar Samachar

The first issue of the Dar Samachar produced by the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Jamaat of Dar es Salaam was released in June 2001. This proposed quarterly magazine has been introduced to keep community members in Dar es Salaam informed on various activities of the Jamaat including an update of construction projects taking place.

The media plays a crucial role to guide and inform our society on affairs, be these religious or secular. Through media inter-action the Dar es Salaam Jamaat expects to create a constant link between the Management Committee and the 6000 or 7000 members of the Jamaat. This magazine also provides general information like recent deaths that have occurred or on engagements or marriages that have taken place in the previous quarter.

An excerpt from the Editorial of the first issue summarises the need for this new media, . A self-governing society like ours makes its decisions with due respect to the laws of the country and with due regard to the needs of members. However it cannot effectively do this without an open exchange of views. By informing our members on what is happening around them, we sincerely hope to encourage more involvement, dedication and participation of our members towards the economic, social and religious upliftment of our community.

The Dar Samachar sells at Shs. 200/-.

The Jamaat has meanwhile called upon members with historic photographs to make these available to the Editorial Board for a proposed Down the Memory Lane page.

The Jamaat also intends to host an online edition of the Dar Samachar on the Jamaat's proposed web site and a link is expected to be created to the Africa Federation Web Page.

Federation Samachar

### Look forward to a new Africa Federation Web Page

The Africa Federation Web Page http://www.africafederation.org/ has been a source of daily information to surfers around the world. Death announcements, Council circulars and community news are updated daily and the site also provides further details of existent office bearers and a brief general history of the community in Africa. The site also hosts the online edition of the Federation Samachar thereby making this community magazine accessible to readers globally.

To make the site more inter-active and user friendly and more pleasant to the eye, the Web Page designer, Amirali Shams Virjee is currently redesigning the site. It is expected that the reconstructed site should be online by the end of August, 2001 and this is expected to host the current issue of the *Federation Samachar*.

For the dialogue section, the Web Page Committee does invite external coordinators who are skilled on a particular subject to run a debate for a short period, normally three months. The redesigned page is expected to introduce a fresh subject for discussion.

The site also provides an email directory of our community members. All those whose emails have been aired are requested to check if their address is correct and if not should send in their correct address to federation@raha.com or samachar@raha.com. New addresses can be similarly e-mailed.

The Africa Federation site is also linked to a wide variety of Islamic resources including the online edition of the Nahj-ul-Balagha, Sahifa al Kamila, Shiite Encyclopaedia, the holy Qur'an, religious rulings of our Marja-e-Taqleed, prominent books such as 'Peshawar nights', 'Then I was Guided' and the like. Furthermore it is linked to some of the few other publications regularly printed by our community around the world.

The newly designed web page is also expected to include a section for matrimonials whereby men or women can seek partners without necessarily mentioning their names.

It is also planned to link the site to a news link whereby surfers can stay abreast by the day with developments and news pertaining to Muslims at large and Shias in particular. This news link will provide additional information like opinions on current issues of Muslims around the world, articles on different important subjects etc.

Emphasis will also be made to update links with individual constituent Jamaats that have their own web page. For those Jamaats that do not have a web page, links will be introduced to provide basic details of office bearers, activities etc.

Also to be re-activated is the Picture Gallery under which recent and old photographs will be carried. Under this gallery it is planned to carry an archives section wherein old photographs of communal significance will be hosted. Our photographer, Murtaza Jivraj is working on initiating and updating this facility.

Finally audio coverages of previous conferences, meetings etc. will be saved on the archives thereby allowing surfers to relive past sessions. Look forward to exciting times at the Africa Federation Internet site and you may also wish to make it your homepage.

### Dar hosts 21st Triennial Conference

The Dar es Salaam Imambara was an ideal setting for the 21st Triennial Conference of the Supreme Council where delegates from around the world congregated during the Easter holidays to dwelve on community affairs. Delegates came from different Jamaats in Africa and the World Federation was represented by their full team for the first time after a lapse of a few years.

The proceedings began on Friday 13th April, 2001 in the afternoon when the minutes of the previous meeting were deliberated upon and audited accounts for the period ending 30th June 2000 were adopted after pertinent deliberations. The official opening was held at night with a full attendance at the Dar es Salaam Imambara. Earlier in the day the Education Board of the Supreme Council held its meeting while in the afternoon representatives of the community's four schools in Nairobi, Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Arusha met to share notes and to chart out future co-operation.

#### **OPENING NIGHT**

Proceedings commenced with recitation of Quranic verses and their translation by Asghar Meghjee of Huseini Madressa, Dar es salaam following which Dua-e-Wahdat was led by Brother Abdul Chandoo.

The Master of Ceremonies and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Safdar Jaffer then provided a back-drop of those involved in his committee following which the Dar es Salaam Jamaat President, Asghar Bharwani formally welcomed participants and guests to the session.

He accentuated on the need for youths to pursue education seriously through vocational or professional training and appealed to community members to stay away from frivolous involvements and ostentatious luxuries.

He also called upon the business community to brace itself with the chang-

ing economic situation which rendered the former *dukawalla* type of approach as unproductive. Finally he called upon girls of the community to seriously pursue higher education to enable them to financially contribute to their household income as today's expensive lifestyle makes it difficult for a family to survive on one income.

All deliveries were made in Gujarati. A healthy trend one would say but this also put the onus right on to our educational and religious institutions to ensure that Gujarati is well taught for our future generations to be able to emulate the same.

#### **FAREWELL ADDRESS**

The retiring Chairman of the Africa Federation, Mohamedbhai Dhirani then delivered his farewell address after serving the community for 55 years.

After paying tribute to a number of prominent social and religious members who passed away during the year he drew caution to the situation in Burundi where the community has been embroiled in a political turmoil.

On the Gujarat earthquake he praised the efforts of the World Federation and said he had pledged the full support of the Africa Federation to alleviate the plight of those affected. He meanwhile reiterated his earlier appeal to the World Federation that was made at the World Federation Executive Council Meeting, to look into effectively mobilising the remaining Somalia citizens in East Africa, many of who cannot have their residence and work permits renewed. He said that the Federation continues to pay their school and health fees but their long term status is in a limbo.

He also reiterated on the need for the Council of European Jamaats to be a member of the World Federation and expressed satisfaction that his earlier appeal to have the World Federation Executive Council meetings at different venues has been honoured.

On Education, he said that in the past six years the Supreme Council had assisted 60 students for higher education at a costs of about \$600,000. He said that \$282,155 of this had been repaid in the last three years, which has allowed the Council to entertain more requests for higher education. He said that the increasing number of local universities has made it possible for almost all serious students to pursue higher education.

He called upon the four Jamaats where schools are established, namely Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Nairobi to consider building a college particularly to train teachers.

#### **GRANTS**

To end his term in office he announced a \$5000 grant to Nakuru Jamaat for the Mosque and Imambara project, a TShs. 30 million grant to Mwanza Jamaat for the Madrasah and Bewakhana project, a \$25,000 grant for the Mombasa Jaffery Academy Multipurpose Hall and a \$25000 grant for the proposed Dar es Salaam Tabligh Centre.

A few presentations were then made by the Chairman to his fellow committee members, trustees and the Chairmen of the six Boards of the Supreme Council.

#### FATEMA AWARD

The Past Chairman, Mohamedbhai Dhirani then announced the presentation of the Fatema Award to Mrs. Raziyabai Gulamabbas Janmohamed for her dedicated services to the community for the past few decades.

Raziyabai was among the few ladies involved in starting the girls' madressa in Dar es Salaam. She qualified as a teacher at a time when education for girls was not given paramount

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importance and also pursued Islamic history and *fiqh*.

She was the first Chairlady of the Ladies Management Committee of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat and held this post for six years. She has also been reciting majlises for many years and has organised or taken part in various workshops and seminars.

Raziyabai is the third recipient of this award since the inception of the Africa Federation. The first recipient was Mrs. Kulsumbai Alarakhia of Kampala and the second recipient was Kulsumbai Abdulla Khimji of Dar es Salaam.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

The incoming Chairman, Zulfikarbhai Khimji praised Mohamedbhai's effort in guiding the Africa Federation for the past two terms and said that his objective is to vie for communal progress in expectation that he would receive due co-operation from all constituent Jamaats.

He emphasised on the need for community members to pay their khums dues in time and said that it is being considered to centralise the collection of khums income to the World Federation.

On spreading religious awareness he praised the Bilal Muslim Mission for consolidating its activities and declared the coming year as the 'Year of Quran' in expectation that more emphasis will be drawn to the importance of this holy book.

Zulfikarbhai said that the Federation would keenly eye Educational progress in the community with the objective to ensure that not one youth of the community is deprived higher education through lack of funds.

On the economic front, he explained the plight of the middle class whose income has steadied due to competitors while the cost of living has increased. He also called on the community spend cautiously.

On the Somalia brothers who have not been resettled, he said a firm solution needs to be found for the individuals Federation Samachar or families who are still in a state of uncertainty on their future. He said the community has so far spent \$2 million to address their plight.

On the administration side he said that the Supreme Council would maintain two offices. One in Nairobi where a donor has provided a fully furnished office and the other office in Dar es Salaam where the past committee operated from. He meanwhile emphasised on all Jamaats to have email facilities to enhance communication.

On the media, he said that the Federation Samachar is now the most popular community media and said that the objective would be for the Samachar to be the international media for our community worldwide.

He praised the Central Health Board for raising health awareness in the community and for hosting a successful convention at the time of the Conference. He suggested that a medical insurance scheme be launched in order for members to be more financially protected against sudden illness by enabling them to get better treatment.

He said that during his term the Africa Federation will continue to focus on promoting youths and said that the next Sports Festival will be held in Dubai during the Christmas holidays this year.

Following the election of the Vice Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and trustees the Chairman then announced his appointments to the Managing Committee team.

#### WF PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The World Federation President, Hasnain Walji acknowledged Mohamedbhai's long service to the community and expressed hope that the World Federation will work hand in glove with the new Africa Federation team.

He said that the presence of delegations from far and wide at the Conference was an indication that ours is an active community that believes in democratic discussions prior to charting out the course of future planning.

He said that we are primarily a reli-

gious institution and tabligh encompasses all our activities be they for child education sponsorship or for building of houses for the poor.

He emphasised on the need of activities around the world to be centralised and cited an example of the recent Gujarat earthquake whereby in 24 hours after the first fremors a delegation from the Council of Gujarat visited our brethren after due consultation with the World Federation.

He said that for the world Khoja population of 125,000 members it is important that we maintain unity because at times of crisis we cannot expect any external help from non-Khoja sources. He said that to fulfill our religious obligations we continue to assist other Shias but history has proved that during various crisis faced by the community including the recent earthquake in Gujarat, there has been almost no support from outside.

On Education, he said this is the first priority of the World Federation, which is why the World Federation has declared this as a term of Education. He said the four schools in Africa should work jointly to uplift standards and praised the schools belonging to the Mehfile-e-Murtaza in Pakistan as offering a very high standard of education.

He said that the Career Education and Training Board of the World Federation would try to get all school boards around the world to share notes and form an international board to uplift religious and secular education at our educational institutions.

On higher education he emphasised for more support from the community towards a centralised Fund that would vie to cater for all requests for assistance towards higher education. He said that community members should consider reducing frequent Ziyarat or Umra trips and instead spare their money for a more noble cause, that of supporting the less privileged to pursue higher education. He also stressed that gifted children in the community should be promoted while handicapped children should be given more personal

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attention.

He too reiterated on the need for community girls to be educated and said the establishment of a college by the community would ensure that a conducive study environment is availed to our girls.

He questioned that, if the Toronto community could collect \$3.8 million in one night for the Bathurst project and the Vancouver Jamaat with only 500 members could venture on a \$10 million project for an Imambara project why should the community in Africa not be able to pool resources for financing higher education. He reminded the community that "if you think higher education is expensive, try ignorance."

He said that the maxim of the World Federation emphasises on the need for the Federation "to be enablers and facilitators" by working in unity with other regional organisations.

He said the World Federation is keen to work together with the Africa Federation to make the *Federation Samachar*, an organ of the Africa Federation, to be an international magazine for the entire Khoja Shia population around the world. He said that in addition to the current African and North American Edition an edition can also be printed in London to cover Jamaats in Europe.

On medical support, he said the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) of the World Federation has been actively involved in supporting community members from around the world who suffer health ailments. He said the MAB intends to support dispensaries and hospitals belonging to the community in Africa as it does elsewhere.

Hasnainbhai then introduced the 'Transforming Vision to Reality' paper prepared by the World Federation that outlines the short and long term objectives of the World Federation. He also briefly revisited the community's history after emigrating from India and landing on the East African and Madagascar shores some 100 to 125 years ago. He said that through the efforts

of many individuals and organisations the community has grown strong worldwide with an infrastructure that we should be happy but not complacent about. He decried the habit by some individuals who resort to self-defeating prophecy warning, "if we keep talking ourselves down we actually will go down."

On huquq funds, he said that it is important that a delegation consisting of members of each of the regional Federations plus the World Federation should visit the Marja-e-Taqleed, Agha Seestani requesting that he allows their reinvestment into the development of community affairs.

He also supported the need for a joint effort to re-deploy Somalia brothers who are still living precariously clarifying that the World Federation has previously provided moral and financial support.

He ended his address by calling on the community to give due importance to Gujarati in order to preserve our heritage. He said that when in future, delegates converge from different parts of the world speaking English, French, Portuguese, Spanish etc. the common language Gujarati would save the situation when there is a communication bottleneck.

#### SECRETARIAT REPORT

The following morning the Past Hon. Secretary, Asghar Dhanji presented the Secretariat report for the year, which outlined the activities of the Supreme Council and its various Boards.

# REPORT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF KSI JAMAATS OF INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

The Chairman of the Regional Council of KSI Jamaats of Indian Ocean Islands (formerly Madagascar Territorial Council), Roshanbhai Jameel expressed happiness that most deliveries at the session were in Gujarati and called for the *Samachar* to also be translated in Gujarati.

On Educational progress in Madagascar, he said that a large primary and secondary school is to be built in Tananarive which would also provide boarding facilities. He said a large piece of land had been donated for this purpose and construction work is scheduled to begin later this year.

For religious education, he said almost all Jamaats in Madagascar have their own madressa and reported that the Regional Council organised a national examination wherein about 500 children participated for three top prizes, that included a free Ziyarat trip. He said currently nine boys in the 18-22 years age group are studying religious education in Qum along with one girl.

He said the economic situation in Madagascar is tough and to brace with the situation a sub-committee has been formed to assist small businessmen. He said though the working capital of this committee is only \$200,000 yet 100 businessmen have so far benefited from this scheme.

He also talked about plans to build a hospital in Madagascar in wake of poor health facilities there.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

During observation time, thoughts and opinions were raised on religious and secular education, duplication of services by different regional associations, centralisation of khums and other funds, need for the community to have its own molvis and mulyani, encouragement of youths, need for Joint School Boards, need to establish a college, grooming of future leaders, emphasis on Gujarati, need for unity between our different federations and regional councils or organisations and a need to encourage community individuals to pay their khums to our institutions which are working democratically and which provide audited accounts for members to peruse and question.

Past Chairman of the Africa Federation, Habibbhai Mulji talked of the success of the Parsi community whose population, he said, is similar to ours. He said that they are almost all individually self-sufficient, living in their own houses and able to afford their health bills. He said that Parsis have

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#### (.....from page 56)

achieved this despite not having religious obligations as we do to pay khums. As a religious community whose ideals stress on assisting the poor, he said our community should be enjoying the same level of success if not better.

On Education, Anverbhai Rajpar stressed on the need for the community to encourage our youths to first become graduates before specialising in computers or other professional fields. He announced the establishment of a Teacher Training College at Al Murtaza School in Pakistan beginning from July and said that a book, "How to manage a community school" has been produced by the Al Murtaza School. This school accommodates between 1800 to 2200 students and has always achieved a 100% success result in its Matriculation examinations.

#### RESTRUCTURING

This item placed on the Agenda of the Conference could not be reviewed. Three years back, during the 20th Triennial Conference held Daressalaam in April, 1998, Mombasa Jamaat moved a resolution calling for the restructuring of the Supreme Council. The proposal was accepted by the Conference and Mombasa Jamaat was assigned the responsibility of nominating members of the proposed restructuring Committee. Mombasa Jamat proposed four individuals who were accordingly nominated by the Secretariat vide circular Ref:JMT/33/98 dated the 17th August, 1998. The Restructuring Committee submitted its report on 16th March, 1999, which was circulated by the Supreme Council Secretariat seeking input from all Jamaats and individual members of the Community.

The Secretariat of the Supreme Council found the report radical in its recommendations and certain Jamaats are said to have found the proposals related to the containment of voting rights unpalatable. Save for comments by three individuals received by the Restructuring Committee, no detailed critique or comments/observations were received.

#### Federation Samachar

# Dar Medical College offers MBBS Courses

A Medical College, the International Medical and Technological (IMTU) University in Dar es Salaam has been set up to offer a 4 ß years MBBS course for students of all nationalities.

The Founders of the University have established and run many higher educational institutions in India. This University was set up under the aegis of the South-South Co-operation and supplements the efforts of the Government of Tanzania in providing higher education. IMTU is located in the picturesque surroundings near Mbezi beach area.

Its fees have been structured economically to encourage students of East African countries to join the course. Various payment schemes are available for students. For East African students the college also offers concession in fees to deserving candidates.

Our address is :-

Mrs Naila Aaijaz Khan Admissions Officer International Medical and Technological University (IMTU) P.O. Box 77594, New Bagamoyo Road Dar-es-Salaam

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Fax: 00255-22-2647038

E-mail - imtu@afsat.com Web-site : www.imtu.edu

#### **APOLOGY**

Due to a computer technical problem, the back-up files of some of our recently archived photographs were permanently erased. As a result the Conference report has been carried without any photographs. Editor

At the two successive Supreme Council meetings held in Zanzibar in 1999 and Mombasa in 2000, the report did not elicit any indepth discussion/review.

By consensus, it was therefore agreed at the Conference that the new Office bearers would review the report and make an attempt to implement workable proposals contained in the report on an ad-hoc basis, without altering the current Constitution or affecting the current voting rights. Based on the practical experience gained in applying the workable proposals contained in the report, a special Conference would be convened during the course of the next Supreme Council meeting

in April, 2002, to fully review the report and effect relevant constitutional changes deemed necessary.

#### RESOLUTION

A resolution tabled by the former Secretariat was then tabled for adoption. This resolution read: "Be it hereby resolved that this Conference authorises the Trustees of the Federation to purchase the properties of Mombasa Jamaat whose beneficiaries are the Alibhai Panju School, Mombasa and which consist of godowns situated on Chuma Road, Changombe, Dar es Salaam.

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#### (.....from page 57)

"That the Trustees of the Federation shall acquire the said properties at a fair and reasonable price taking into consideration the market value and acceptable return on the investment."

To this effect the Supreme Council was handed over the authority to carry on with negotiations on the property.

Zulfikarbhai Khimji then briefly summarised the observations made.

### REPORT OF THE IMAM ZAMANE MISSION

After lunch, Salimbhai from Imam Zamane Mission, Hyderabad briefly narrated the situation of Shias in India as being difficult with most living in shabby houses, poor health conditions, lack of educational facilities and with traditional customs like dowries hampering the marriage trend. He called upon the community at large to have smaller families, to pay their huquq, have modest marriages and for girls to marry late after spending a few years in studying.

### WORLD FEDERATION REPORT

After the Sports Council report was presented, the Secretary General of the World Federation, Dr. Sibtain Panjwani presented the World Federation report wherein he highlighted the main objectives behind the 'Transforming Vision to Reality' paper produced by the World Federation.

Sibtainbhai said that to mark the 25th anniversary of the World Federation it is planned to hold six conventions at various international venues. These are:

- 1] Health Care Professionals Convention in the USA;
- 2] JCSA Convention in India
- 3] Tabligh Convention in Africa
- 4] Education Convention in Pakistan
- 5] International Women's Convention in the UK and
- 6] Youths Convention in Dubai to coincide with the Sports Festival.

He said that a special committee under the Vice President of the World Federation, Dr. Ahmed Hasham is monitoring implementation.

On the earthquake in Gujarat he said that in two minutes a major part of the community's infrastructure was brought down to debris but said that despite this tragedy the community there has been strong, with faith in the Almighty being the ultimate protector.

In his concluding remarks, Sibtainbhai went down memory lane to explain how our youths were involved and persevered to form the Africa Federation. He called upon the youths of today to be more involved in communal development.

#### **MEDICAL FACILITIES**

The Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board (MAB), Dr Mohamedtaki Walji said that the MAB is negotiating improvement plans at the community's medical facilities in Dar es Salaam and Arusha so that many patients would not need to travel to the UK or to India for further treatment.

With regard to the appointment of liaison officers in Africa by the World Federation, it was agreed that such appointments be made through institutions rather than through individuals.

#### **BOARD REPORTS**

The Chairman of various Boards then presented the following reports:

Pyaralibhai Shivji presented the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania report;

Roshanbhai Jamil presented the Bilal Muslim Mission of Regional Council of KSI Jamaats of Indian Ocean Islands report;

Mohamedbhai Nathoo presented the Sports Council report;

Asgherbhai Manji presented the Education Board report;

Roshanbhai Fazal presented the Setwel Board report;

Aunalibhai Khalfan presented the Central Health Board report;

Munirbhai Daya presented the *Federation Samachar* Editorial Board and Africa Federation Web page report.

#### **DUBAI SPORTS FESTIVAL**

During the presentation of the Sports report, Mohamedbhai Nathoo called on the Chairman of the Dubai Jaffery Sports Club, Mohamedraza Somji to officially invite all Jamaats to take part in the Sports Council Festival to be held in Dubai during the Christmas holidays this year.

Somji said some 600 to 700 players are expected to take part in cricket, football, golf, volleyball, tennis and squash. The Jamaats expected to take part are Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Arusha, Kampala, Mombasa, Madagascar, Mumbai, Karachi, London (North and South), Peterborough, Birmingham, New York, Allentown, Toronto, Sweden and Orlando.

#### JAFFERY SETTLEMENT SERVICES

During the presentation of the SETWEL Board report, Roshanbhai Fazal invited Brother Munir Daya to explain the role of the Jaffery Settlement Services (JSS) of Toronto in assisting community members who intend to migrate to Canada.

#### FOUR PRESENTATIONS

After presentation of the Board reports, four speakers spoke on religious, economic and social issues. Mohamedbhai Khalfan of Dar es Salaam spoke of the community in context with the globalised economy, Anverbhai Rajpar of Dar es Salaam related the effects of indigenisation on the community and Dr. Asghar Moledina of Kampala spoke of the drain on the resources of third world countries by some multi-national firms. He also encouraged businessmen to consider service business to brace with stronger competition. Hassanalibhai Jaffer of Mombasa decried the over dependence of our community on molvis who are trained to perpetuate a system which does not allow reform. He appealed to the community to consider revamping the current system of recruiting molvis.

Dr. Asghar Moledina provided the vote of thanks to bring the curtains down of yet another gruelling albeit shorter session.

#### AF Conference relayed 'almost live' through the Internet

For the first time in the history of the Africa Federation, the Africa Federation Website relayed the Supreme Council Conference in Dar es Salaam to the world almost live. The live coverage was also linked to the Tabligh web site of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat.

This coverage enabled our brethren around the world to be in Africa for the session by tuning in to proceedings. Some even emailing comments that were read out prior to the end of the Conference.

The airing of the Conference was done through a team of volunteers under the Africa Federation Web Page Committee led by Amirali Shams Virjee and Abdul Datoo.

#### Visiting Presidents tour Al Muntazir Schools

The World Federation President, Hasnainbhai Walji, Africa Federation Chairman Zulfikarbhai Khimji and the Secretary General of the World Federation, Sibtain Panjwani visited the Al Muntazir School when in Dar es Salaam for the Supreme Council Conference.

The visitors were shown the Nursery School, Junior School, Academy and Al Muntazir Complex, Seminary following which they had a short session with members of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat and the Central Board of Education wherein Hasnainbhai underscored the importance of uplifting education standards in the community and country at large. He also emphasised on the need for all community schools to work with common goals and to share notes.

During the visit the Principals of each of the schools were present to explain to the visitors the main activities undertaken.

# Educationists meet in Dar to discuss the way forward

The Education Board of the Supreme Council organised a one-day session in Dar es Salaam at the Gents Imambara on 9th June, 2001 for Educationists from our schools in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Mombasa to discuss issues defining the role, scope and terms of reference of the Education Board.

The session, which drew about 50 men and women from the community's educational institutions was Chaired by Iqbal Sunderji, Chairman of the Education Board. Also in attendance were the Chairman of the Africa Federation, Zulfikarbhai Khimji, Past Chairman, Mohamedbhai Dhirani and the Dar es Salaam Jamaat President, Asgherbhai Bharwani and visiting Chairman of World Federation's CETAB, Murtaza Datoo from London

Among the issues discussed were:

- the need for an independent inspection of our Schools to appraise educational standards;
- the need for our schools to have a proper Islamic Religious syllabus with appropriate teachers and due interaction with the Madrasah syllabus;
- the need to identify common areas of interest in such issues as general policies, recruitment of teachers, career guidance facilities, procurement of books, syllabus, students exchange, in-service training, etc.
- the need for stronger public relations including the hosting of a web page;
- possible ways of involvement of WF-CETAB and Al-Murtaza School in Karachi in consolidating the performance of the Education Board were considered;
- the possibility of students to pursue courses available in local/regional institutes for higher education including vocational training;
- the suitability of distance learning including the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)/computer based learning, continuous professional development and adult and vocational education and training programmes;
- the system of presentation and approval of pre-loan applications forms. Timing for submission and subsequent approvals, selection criteria and extent of loans to be availed were discussed. For the selection criteria it was considered that various courses can be done locally in East Africa or regionally in more cost effective countries like India, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, Australia, etc. before opting for Western Universities which are expensive;
- the need for a professional Educationist;
- format and process of Final Loan Applications Forms with due consideration
  to steps to be followed at various stages after guarantee forms are signed
  and presented to AFED-EB for funding. For repayment of loans, the need
  for firm and and legally binding guarantees from parents, guardians or
  credible sponsors was considered absolutely necessary;
- the possible establishment of a Foundation Fund and/or Common Pool Fund with WF to be managed jointly but to be used largely for the benefit of applicants from Africa;
- the options and suitability of starting a regional University, college or other tertiary institution in East Africa for boys and girls;
- the need to create a link between the Education Board the individual School Boards through quarterly reporting.

The Session provided a good opportunity to representatives from all the four community schools to share notes and chart the way forward.

# JIPS gets JKUAT accreditation

The Jaffery Institute of Professional Studies (JIPS) is the most recent addition to Mombasa's centres of higher learning. It is in keeping with the spirit of providing quality education at an affordable cost that JIPS has been established.

Jaffery's infrastructure and facilities are unsurpassed by any institute of its kind in Mombasa. Its two fully equipped libraries and a modern state of the art computer laboratory housing 25 networked terminals with unlimited Internet access make the learning process both easy and enjoyable.

The construction of a multi purpose built computer training centre is also underway which will provide for an additional 40 terminals to enhance JIP's tutorial capacity.

The Mombasa Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Education Board formed a committee two years ago to promote post secondary education. The committee was charged with the responsibility of setting up a college of higher education focusing specifically on the needs of the industry and this culminated in the formation of JIPS.

This step marks a milestone in the history of the institution. JIPS has been accredited by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) to run Information technology (IT) courses in Mombasa. It is the only centre accredited to offer JKUAT's courses in IT in Mombasa.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed covering various areas of collaboration between the two institutions and outlining the framework under which JKUAT and JIPS will provide and tutor the course.

The Jaffery Institute of Professional Studies commenced the Diploma and Certificate in IT courses beginning from June this year. The diploma consists of five semesters each comprising one certificate level. The diploma will take 18 months inclusive of the field attachment period.



Mohamed creditation.

JKUAT will develop and continuously update the curriculum for the course as well as administer examinations for each certificate. On successful completion the graduates will be entitled to proceed to the second year of the IT degree programmes of JKUAT.

The JKUAT diploma in IT has been structured bearing in mind the requirement of the industry and is geared to produce versatile graduates with maximum hands on experience able to easily adapt to requirements of modern technology.

Before a centre is accredited by

The Vice Chancellor of JKUAT, The JKUAT Vice Chancellor, Prof Prof Ratemo Michieka and the ratemo Michieka signs the visitors book Chairman of the KSI Education as the Mombasa Jamaat Chairman, Iqbal Mohamed Hemani and Vice Chairman Sunderji sign documents of ac- of the KSI Education Board, Masumali Meghji look on.

> JKUAT to offer any course, it must meet certain set standards. JIPS has been assessed vigorously and JKUAT is convinced that the institute has met the required standards of facilities, staff and training and management capability to offer the diploma in IT.

JIPS also offers a ten-week teacher training course and was scheduled to offer courses in accountancy as it has been registered as a teaching centre for the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of England. It was expected to begin offering ACCA Foundation Stage and CAT courses from 1st July, 2001.

#### Jiwa shatters 22-year-old national swimming record

Mohammedali Jiwa of Mombasa Academy recently shattered a 22-year-old Kenya national record as his school dominated the age group swimming championship in Mombasa.

Jiwa who holds several national records showed his supremacy by erasing the boys under 12/13 200m butterfly record. He returned 2 min 42.05 sec, six seconds better than the 2:48.05 mark set by Ian Keenan on March 10, 1979. It happened to be the only record broken during the two-day championship held at Oshwal Academy.

Jiwa steered his school to victory in the boys category with 436 points. Coast Academy (296 pts) were second, Oshwal Academy (219) third and Nairobi s St. Mary s School (201) fourth.

The championship attracted Loreto Convent Valley Road, Coast Academy, Mombasa Oshwal, St. Austin s, Aga Khan Kensec, Aga Khan Primary School, Nyali Primary, Otters, German School, Bahari Club, St. Mary s School, Almadras and Shree Swaminarayan Academy.

# The Southern part of Africa grows in religious awareness

by Dr. Asghar Moledina

The history of the coming of Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri in Africa dates back to the 1870 s or so BUT for some reasons, which can be a subject of another study, we remained mainly confined to East Africa and southwards up to the southern borders of the then known, TANGANYIKA i.e. Lindi, Mtwara. Around the same time a small portion of the our community did settle in Mo ambique but again in the northern part of the country, mainly in Nampula. However because of a different language our community in Mo ambigue remained distant from the East African community. It is only with the activities of the Africa Federation spreading that Nampula now continues to be in the picture.

The advent of the Islamic Revolution in Iran led to the awakening of Muslims in South Africa and pockets of Shias who were scattered all over South Africa began to get together. The need for a Shia center was realized. This resulted into getting a suitable Alim for South Africa and Mawlana Sayed Aftab Haider set up base in Cape Town. AFOSA (Ahlul Bait AS Foundation of South Africa) was established in 1991 to serve as an umbrella body for Shias in the South-African region. Alhamdulillah we have various centres in the region. These include:

- 1. Cape Town: Ahlul Bait Islamic Centre was built in 1995 with the help of the AFRICA FEDERATION, IPO from IRAN, various individual donors and well wishers. It has a mosque, library and administrative offices and serves as AFOSA s Head Office.
- 2. Phillippi and Mbekweni Area (Near Cape): the

Fatima Azzehra Center serves as a Mosque and Madressa for the area.

In Johannesburg and Pretoria:
In Johannesburg there is a sizeable Pakistani community that performs all their religious and social activities in rented premises in Fordsburg area. There are also a number of indigenous Shia brothers and sisters active in this region. Mawlana Syed Abdulla Hoosieni has been giving his voluntary services to the community here.

Al-Abbas Mosque and Madressa is being established in Garanukwa Township near Pretoria, mainly for the local people. A huge plot has been purchased in Kwa Thema, near Springs, for the purpose of establishing Al Mustafa Islamic Complex

4. In 1998, Imam Husain AS Mosque was established with the help of the Africa Federation. This is situated in Ottawa, a northern suburb of Durban. There are a number of staunch Shias and the number of new converts is on the rise. They have a Resident Alim, Mawlana Syed Shermohamed Jafferi.

Besides there are increasing activities in various African townships around Kroonstad, Bloemfontein, Soweto, Pietersburg, Gauteng and Port Elizabeth.

Recently various Islamic Books, notably Dua-e-Kumail were printed in trilingual language, namely Arabic, English and Zulu. Other literature in English include a booklet on Imam Husayn (a.s.) and the holy Quran in Islam. We have two Islamic radio stations in this region and teachings of Ahlul Bait (AS) have featured prominently on several occasions.

We also have centers in Bostwana (Gabarone), and Mocambique (Nampula and Beira). In fact Nampula Jamaat has undertaken a very ambitious project to built a new Mosque, School, Madressah and a Multi-purpose center for which nearly 50% of the construction work has been done. They are soliciting Funds for further development of this \$1.5 million project. The Resident Alim in Nampula is one of our Khoja brother, Sheikh Muhsin Kanani and in Maputo we have Mawlana Syed Akhtar Hasan Rizvi. They are also pockets of Khoja Shia Community in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The fact remains that the Muslim community in this region is in dire need of learning TRUE ISLAM and this gives a tremendous opportunity for Tabligh work as can be seen from the increasing number of converts from other Muslim sects and other religions.

The continuous support from the office of the honorable leadership and other Grand Mara'je in the Islamic Republic of Iran along with Ayatullah Seestani's office, the World Federation, the Africa Federation, the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya and Tanzania and so many others is very well appreciated.

Any further information for this region can be obtained by getting in touch with:

Mawlana Sayed Aftab Haider

Tel: +27 21 704 1580; Cell: +27 82 783 2122 Fax: +27 21 704 1581

### 100 days in office - AF delegation visits nine Africa Jamaats

Following the last Conference in Dar es Salaam, the Africa Federation Office Bearers (OBs) under the Chairmanship of Zulfikarbhai Khimji have made official visits to Arusha, Mombasa, Nairobi, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Nakuru, Kampala and Bukoba Jamaats during the first 100 days in office.

During these visits the Chairman has discussed local issues with the Jamaats and has outlined action plans to community members that are expected to be implemented during the current term.

In each Jamaat, the Chairman called for support to enable implementation of desired plans. He has also explained the function of each of the Boards and the expectations therefrom.

The AF team has also held meetings with members of each of its Boards and through terms of reference has outlined its expectations following mutual acceptance of proposed plans during the meetings.

Meanwhile a policy meeting for the Education Board was held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday June 9, 2001 and its implementation strategy is under preparation (see report on page 60 of this issue).

The Boards have been requested to work closely with the Community to ensure cohesive identification of problems with an intention to provide agreeable solutions so that the Supreme Council is able to discharge its responsibilities to assist and guide the Community towards achievement of common goals.

The OBs, in response to councillors and delegates from Jamaats have decided to embark upon a vision exercise to make ours a more cohesive community, committed to the central tenets of our faith and with a keen view on the socio-cultural and religious needs of the community. The OBs have thus established a Strategic Planning and Resource Committee (SPARC) to spearhead this process.

On 22nd July the Chairman, Zulfikar Khimji attended the NASIMCO Conference and thereafter he also visited Toronto, New York and Orlando where he addressed the Jamaats.

#### THE WORLD FEDERATION

The office bearers of the Africa and World Federations met during the Conference in Dar es salaam to discuss issues of mutual concern. The following were agreed upon:

- WF shall deal with all affairs outside Africa, while AF shall deal with all affairs within Africa.
- Both teams shall work together to find a lasting solu-6 2 tion to the Somali crisis.



The Africa Federation Chairman, Zulfikar Khimji addressing members of Tanga Jamaat



Tanga Jamaat Chairman, Mahmoud Dhirani welcoming the AF team



AF delegation with the Managing Committee of Tanga Jamaat



At the Zainabiya Resource Centre in Mombasa



Meeting with the Education Board in Mombasa.

#### (continued on page 63) (...from page 62)

- The respective education boards be requested to identify new avenues of funding and managing funds for higher education in wake of increasing needs.
- Look into possibility of making *Federation Samachar* into an international edition for our entire community worldwide.
- Along with all other Regional Federations, review and centralize the collection and spending of huquq funds.

#### THE AGA KHAN COUNCIL

The Federation has embarked on the possibility of improving relations with other communities, especially the Aga Khan Council. Areas of mutual interest are being explored and both teams are looking into possible joint ventures. Assistance in their expertise e.g. education, medical, etc. have been discussed and projects beneficial to both parties shall be analyzed critically to strengthen social relationships. Religious functions and Tabligh, together with added avenues of consolidating ties will be explored.

#### VISIT TO JAMAATS Dar es Salaam:

During the 21<sup>St</sup> Triennial Conference, the office bearers of the World Federation and the Chairman of the Africa Federation, Zulfikar Khimji visited the Al-Muntazir School and the Korean Centre - projects of Dar Jamaat.

A visit was also made to Waliul Asr Education Centre run by WIPAHS at Kibaha. This Centre, run independently by our community members has a teacher training Hawza with boarding facilities for girls only.

The *Chuma Road Changombe Property*, that was discussed about during the Conference was visited in the company of trustees.

The Bilal Muslim Mission (BMM) Temeke Centre was visited with officials of the Mission.

 It was noted that Hon. Sajjad Rashid of Mombasa has donated funds towards the Kigoma Cen-

- tre, which is now running.
- The Temeke Centre in Dar es Salaam has nursery and primary schools teaching both secular as well as religious education.
- District centres have madressahs only.
- Plans are underway to build a Teacher Training Centre with a benevolent donor funding the project.
- The Mission's printing press continues to facilitate printing of religious books that are mostly sent to religious centres, University libraries, Tabligh Centres and the Mission's own library in Kariakoo, Dar es Salaam.

The AF and WF OBs held a meeting with the displaced Somali brothers at the Dar es Salaam Imambara to introduce the new Setwel Board members and to seek solutions. It was agreed that the Setwel Board would review the situation critically and find lasting solutions.

Meanwhile a Special Commission was formed to study the possibility of a post secondary educational institution with an ultimate broader vision to set-up a full-fledged university on a 32 acre plot at Kigamboni, across the ferry, which was visited by the office bearers along with some members of Dar es Salaam Jamaat including President of the Jamaat, Asgher Bharwani.

Philanthropist Gulam Dewji has agreed to donate this plot to the Africa Federation provided a University is set up there. Akber Jaffer based in Dubai has offered his expertise to get the project off the ground. Avenues to set up the University under either the Africa Federation, Dar es salaam Jamaat or a separate Trust/Foundation will have to be developed.

#### Moshi:

On their return journey to Nairobi, the AF-OBs had a lunch meeting with the Moshi Jamaat Committee.

In the absence of the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary, Roshanbhai Mamdani represented the Committee. Chairman Zulfikar Khimji stressed on the need for close ties and noted that the Moshi Jamaat was the first Jamaat to be visited by the OBs.

He emphasized the role of the Councillors to adequately report back to Jamaats on return from Federation meetings and called on the Jamaat to organise activities in line with the declaration at the Council session that this would be an "Year of the Qur'an".

Alhaj Roshan Mamdani thanked the delegation for their visit and raised common issues of concern e.g. resident Aalim, Somali brothers, need of Gujarati teachers, earthquake funding, rental incomes from properties owned, Madressah and Musafarkhana.

The visiting delegation visited the Jaffery Dispensary which is currently running at a loss of TShs. 1.5 M per annum and the Bilal Muslim Mission Centre run by Mahmood Ladak under the Tanzania Bilal Muslim Mission.

#### Arusha:

After formal introduction of the AF delegation by Mehdi Rashid, President of Arusha Jamaat, the Federation Chairman, Zulfikar Khimji addressed members of the Jamaat.

A meeting was then held with the Managing Committee during which the Federation Chairman particularly thanked the Jamaat for their gusto on education, an example set by Marhum Bwana Ali Sheriff.

Chairman of the Jaffery School, Amir Somji informed the delegation that there are 18 students from Arusha studying abroad and suggested that a data base be created for students from Africa studying abroad.

The Arusha Jamaat pays TShs. 1.5 million annually towards school fees for our Somali students. The Jamaat suggested that:

- Statistics be collected of all members of our constituent Jamaats;
- Smaller Jamaats must be visited and not neglected;
- Reiterated Jamaat's support to the Africa Federation and offered Arusha to be the venue for the 2002 Council Session;
- Education policies and endow-

ments be revived;

#### (continued on page 64) (.....from page 63)

- Details on educational facilities in Malaysia be sought;
- Our girls be assisted towards Accountancy Courses.

The visiting delegation requested the Jamaat to forward details of their properties, copies of title deeds and constitution for AF records. While in Arusha the visiting delegation also visited the Madressah Centre at Mti Moja run by Gulamhussein Mukhtar.

#### Nairobi:

The AF-team was given an official welcome by the Managing Committee of Nairobi Jamaat, when they hosted a lunch towards the end of April 2001.

The Chairman was given the platform to convey his message to Nairobians. In his speech, he covered the following main issues:

- Thanked the Jamaat for his nomination and was proud to have a good cabinet, almost all from Nairobi Jamaat;
- · Community unity;
- Role of the Federation and its various organs;
- · Emphasis on education;
- Emphasis on adequate planning and appointment of Alhaj Hassan Jaffer as Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.

#### Mombasa:

In early May 2001, the AF delegation visited Mombasa Jamaat and held an informal meeting with the Managing Committee. Several issues of concern were discussed. The delegation also visited the Bilal Muslim Mission (BMM) and a brief meeting was held in their boardroom.

After welcoming guests, the main activities of propagating Shia religion were highlighted by Chairman Alhaj Abbas Nasser. The Africa Federation's last year contribution of KShs. 1m was acknowledged but shortage of finance was reported to be restricting the activities of the Mission. It was reported that their main



At the Jaffery Sports Club in Mombasa



Meeting with the Federation Samachar Editorial Board



Kampala Jamaat Chairman, Mustafa Kanji welcoming the AF Team

source of funding were benevolent donors and well-wishers.

It was also pointed out that BMM Kenya was registered as an independent society and the delegation requested copies of appropriate documents for information and record.

The BMM was requested to amalgamate the accounts and reporting of the Nairobi and Nakuru branches in its main accounts and reporting system. Following the suggestions from the 1999 Supreme Council meeting held in Zanzibar, the BMM was requested to look into possibilities of amalgamating and/or assisting the Al Mehdi (AS) project in Matunga.

The Mission s audited accounts to

1999 have been presented to the Federation, while the draft ones for 2000 will be presented soon.

The Tabligh Board members accompanied by BMM officers visited the Al Mehdi (AS) project in Matunga. Due to financial constraints, the project is suffering and the trustees were requested to submit financial and registration details to the Africa Federation for financial support.

The OBs visited the four Federation properties at Unity House, Ganjoni Flats, Tudor Flats and Old Town House with their Trustee, Alhaj Yusuf Datoo. These were seen to require minor rehabilitation.

The delegation was then taken for

#### (continued on page 65)

#### (.....from page 64)

lunch at the residence of Alhaj Roshanali Merali. Informal discussions were held as many prominent members of the Jamaat were present and the issue of Alibhai Panju property in Dar es Salaam was also discussed. The AF delegation requested for some time to review the case with the Trust Board following which it will revert to the Jamaat.

The Sports Club was also visited and a meeting held with the managing committee. Thereafter an informal session was held with the youths following which a visit was made to the Madrasah.

The highlight of the visit was the keynote address by the AF Chairman in the Imambara after the Majlis. This was made after an introduction by the Chairman of the Jamaat, Mohamed Hemani. The main points of the Chairman's speech were:

- Community unity;
- Role of AF and its various organs;
- Emphasis on education with the Board now being located in Mombasa;
- Excellent educational facilities in Mombasa with full assistance and cooperation from Hon. Sajjad Rashid and Alhaj Mohammed Jaffer, amongst others;
- Emphasis on adequate planning and formation of the SPARC.

The next day the delegation visited the Zanabiya Resources Centre, ably supported by the WF before proceeding to visit the educational facilities. A Meeting was held with the school board and other prominent Jamaat members, the main issues of discussion being:

- Need for common school inspection;
- Need to develop a common Islamic Religious Education Syllabus that can be used in the Schools/ Madrasah;
- Jaffery Academy's new IT/ACCA diploma course to be followed by degree courses.
- AF requested that since such

good courses are available locally, students should be encouraged to undertake these courses instead of going overseas as this creates a financial burden on the family, Jamaat, Federation and the community at large.

 Question of migration through education was also cited;

#### Tanga:

On reaching Tanga, the Africa Federation delegation was invited for dinner at the Imambara hosted by Chairman Alhaj Mahmood Dhirani.

After the Majlis, the AF Chairman addressed the congregation in the Imambara identical issues as addressed to other Jamaats.

A meeting with the managing committee was held at the Jamaat offices and in absence of the Chairman; the Hon. Secretary introduced the managing committee and welcomed the delegation.

The AF Chairman reiterated the messages delivered at the Imambara. The following main issues were discussed:

- Cases that needed medical assistance should be channeled through the CHB in Dar es Salaam or their representative;
- Resident Aalim's hadiya is to be borne by the Jamaat;
- Huquq received by the Federation can be used for development of Jamaat properties as well as other projects;
- Due to financial constraints, the Jamaat's properties are in a condemned state and thus rehabilitation of old buildings was not possible;
- AF was requested to look favorably at the recent two loan applicants from Tanga Jamaat.

The next day, a breakfast meeting with the trustees and other prominent members of the Jamaat was held. The delegation passed the Kabrastan prior to visiting the ABC Centre run by Kuwaitis and leaving for Nairobi.

#### Kampala:

The Federations' property in Kampala

have been inspected in the company of AF Trustees and the Jamaat Chairman.

Several issues of concern have been brought for the attention of the Federation and pertinent action plans are underway.

#### **TORONTO**

In Toronto the Chairman, Zulfikar Khimji addressed the NASIMCO 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2001. His address follows:

"Ulama – e - Kiram, The President of Nasimco Alhaj Gulamabbas Sajan, The President of Toronto Jamaat Alhaj Ali Raza Rajani, The Vice President of World Federation Alhaj Ahmed Hasham, the Presidential Candidates, Councilors, Delegates, & Invitees. Salaam-mun-alai-kum.

First and foremost please accept the best wishes and salaams from all my Jamaats of Africa and my Cabinet members.

I then wish to record my sincere thanks to the current President of Nasimco for the invitation sent to us.

It is precisely 99 days old since I acquired this highest post of the Chairman of Africa Federation. I am glad to be here with my Assistant Secretary Barkat Rajani to attend this Nasimco Conference to show our solidarity and our moral support to the North American Jamaats. May Allah S.W.T. grant us Tawfiq to work hand in hand in all our endeavors.

I now wish to briefly address you on the activities of the Africa Federation:

The Role Africa Federation: The Africa Federation, formed 56 years ago consists of 41 Jamaats of Africa, with a total population of approximately 18,000. We have formed various Boards, partaking their respective roles and responsibilities under agreed terms of reference such as:

Tabligh Board – Chairman Alhaj Ali Raza Nanji - Nairobi provides religious guidance in matters of Madressas and Moon sighting. It also oversees the work of Bilal Muslim Mission throughout Africa. (continued on page 66) (....from page 65)

Education Board — Chairman Alhaj Iqbal Sunderji — Mombasa. This Board handles Career Guidance, inspection of the standard in schools and higher education sponsorship.

Central Health Board — Chairman Alhaj Safder Jaffer — Dates-salaam. Oversees medical facilities and medical camps. Arranges overseas treatment with support from the World Federation Medical Advisory Board.

Setwel Board - Chairman Anver Dharamsi and Azim Dewji — Daessalaam. Welfare. Oversees welfare and settling of our brothers from Somalia. The Migration/JSS Chairman is Shabbir Manekia — Daes-salaam.

Under the SETWEL Board we propose to have a Match Making link between all Jamaats in the World and request all North American Jamaats to kindly forward a name of a male and a female with their full addresses to represent the respective Jamaats which shall be published in the *Samachar*, Africa Federation web site, and circulars.

Editorial Board — Chairman Munir Daya — Daes-salaam. Oversees publication of the *Federation Samachar* and is the Web Manager of the Africa Federation Web site.

We accept advertisements in the Samachar and the Web Site at very reasonable charges. Please contact Email: samachar@raha.com

**Sports Board** — Chairman Alhaj Amirali Somji —Arusha. Handles Sports Festivals on International level and Inter Jamaat mini sports festivals.

Strategic Planning and Resource Board/Committee —I wish to propose that the World Federation, Africa Federation and NASIMCO hold a session together to appoint a committee to work on this issue, whereby a common vision master plan over a ten year period in phases of two years each be presented with clear tasks that each respective Federation shall implement per the specific needs and suitable ap-

plication.

The Present Situation - The changing political, security and economic situation in Africa is putting a lot of financial constraints on Africa Federation activities.

The Africa Federation emphasis has been Education where this year only we have approved 39 applications for further Education both locally and abroad — Our requirements are a lot higher.

We are grateful to the following for their kind Scholarship Donations to Africa Federation this year:

- Mombasa Jamaat for two scholarships for ACCA - Accountancy Students in Mombasa.
- Sajjadiya Trust for five scholarships for any course of study in India.
- 3. Through World Federation three scholarships of Sterling 10,000.00 each for the period of three years.
- 4. Alhaj Jawad Khakhi for Scholarships worth US\$ 100,000.00.
- 5. Marhum Sadiq Rahim for on going Scholarships in Dares-salaam, Tanzania.

The history of the Africa Federation reveals that over 600 Scholarships have been awarded for Higher Education abroad. I am sure quite a few very senior members of North America Jamaats have been beneficiaries of this Scholarship scheme.

We appeal jointly with the blessings of the World Federation to benevolent benefactors of this community that we seek:

⟨ 50 Scholarships at a cost of U.S. \$ 6,000.00 each per annum for three years — we shall povide details and reports of students to sponsors on a regular basis. We shall also accept some people to get together, say six people jointly paying US\$ 1000 each per year to be part of this scheme.

Æ A Foundation Fund of US \$ 1 M. to purchase a property that we have identified in Mombasa — Kenya that shall provide an income to cover all our future educational needs to avoid the tradition of going out in the World to seek scholarships every year — of course we shall raise US\$ 500.000 from our sources in Africa.

**Setwel:** Over ten years ago, when the Africa Federation undertook the rescue of our community members from Somalia with the support of Hon. Sajjad Rashid and his brother Ashiq Rashid, some 1050 persons were brought to Mombasa out of whom:

- ( 350 settled in Mombasa Kenya.
- ( 350 migrated to the West and Pakistan.
- And 350 are still in Tanzania, who are directly under the care of the Africa Federation for welfare, medical and education with a monthly expense of US\$ 8,000.00

The community in Africa has spent over US\$ 2M in the course of the last ten years towards these costs. We would like to record our gratitude to the following for their support:

- The General Public of Jamaat members in Africa.
- \( \text{The World Federation for their continued support.} \)
  - Toronto Jamaat.
- 〈 A Member of New York Jamaat.

We meanwhile appeal to you to support us in this continuing expenditure and migration.

Centralization of funds towards Jamaats, Individuals, Institutions, Tabligh Centers in Africa - It is our very humble request to all members, Jamaats, Institutions all over the world that any assistance, monetary or in kind, being sent to any one in Africa should be channeled through the Africa Federation. We shall ensure that the assistances shall be delivered to the person, Institution or respective Jamaat on behalf of the donor. This will also allow for total transparency and accountability.

We need to be seen and practice as a united Community. The Africa Federation has continually worked with the World Federation and we also pledge our solidarity to work very closely with Nasimco. May Allah the Almighty Bless you."

Federation Samachar

### **CHB** hosts Medical Convention

A very successful medical convention was held in Daressalam organized by the CHB from 12th to 13th April, 2001 at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es salaam. The Medical Convention was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Tanzania Hon. Mr. Fredrick Sumaye in a well attended ceremony of about 400 people that was also attended by the Tanzanian Deputy Minister for Health, Hon. Dr. Husein Ali Mwinyi, community members from Dar es salaam and delegates to the 21st triennial Supreme Council Conference.

At end of the two days Convention and Workshop, the participants from both genders, who came from different parts of the world numbering to about 450 of different age groups, with diverse qualifications and experience, including medical professionals, health care professionals, academicians, heads of the community institutions, youths, students and parents dwelled on the subject of healthcare and health education and identified critical areas of concern in our community.

The following resolutions were proposed for implementation in order to improve the present health status of our community:

#### **HEALTH EDUCATION**

1. Create a forum for health education (environmental, hygiene, diseases, dietary, lifestyles, harmful habits etc.) via small group discussions, seminars, workshops, and lectures from pulpit including regular leaflets. (Female participation be encouraged).

#### ⊙ Target group — Parents and ouths.

2. Mandatory Health and Sex education introduction in all our schools and madressahs. Prepare and adopt curriculum and implement it without undue delay. (Recruiting a resource person i.e. expert for training local staff and championing implementation may be necessary for short term

in some Jamaats).

- ⊙ Target group from Nursery school to High School students.
- 3. Create a cadre of counselors via a focused training scheme who are prepared to handle those infected and those not, but require to sensitized.
- Target group Community members of all age levels.

#### **PREVENTION**

- 4. All Jamaats to introduce Health Screening programs for community members at least once every two years, screening to include the Thalassaemia test
- Target group Community members of all age levels.
- 5. Thalassaemia testing be made compulsory prior to registration of engagements between couples. CHB to procure equipment required for testing.
- ⊙ Target group Couples.
- 6. All Jamaats must discourage and ban smoking of cigarettes/to-bacco in all social, sports and religious gatherings in institutions operating under Jamaats. Strict compliance should be instituted. (Certain areas of mosque compound and institutions owned by Jamaats may be designated as smoking areas). Education and campaign against smoking should continue.
- ⊙ Target group —All smokers.
- 7. Any functions organized by the Jamaat should ban the eating of Pariki (tobacco) and similar substances. Schools and Madressahs management should ban eating of Pariki and similar substances in their School s rules and regulations.
- Target group Parents and Children of all age levels.
- 8. Sports and recreation facilities be made available to all community members especially women, youths and children for physical

- fitness activities. Where Jamaats do not own such facilities, alternative arrangements be made i.e. hiring facilities as a short-term solution.
- Target group Community members of all age levels.

Several recommendations emanated from the Convention for consideration and implementation by all concerned constituent Jamaats.

- 1. Youths should be given a place on all Jamaats managing committees to participate and discuss issues that affect them.
- 2. Jamaats should seriously look into Medical Insurance schemes for community members given the soaring medical fees.
- 3. Creation of a web-site/hotline/chatline for youths to answer questions and to keep them in the loop for communications with peers and counselors etc.
- 4. Youths strongly proposed that the Namaz-e-Jumaa Khutba (sermons) should be divided into English and Urdu languages. The sermons should be relevant to the current needs and realities. Similarly, Islamic principles, moral and ethical values should be emphasized.
- 5. A ladies wing with full participation in the Board and in the decisionmaking should be established under the CHB.
- 6. CHB Representative should be appointed in each and every Constituent Jamaat in Africa for effective communication, representation and to assist the Jamaat in organizing healthcare and health education activities in constituent Jamaats.

During the Convention, special separate sessions were organized for ladies only in which lady doctors and specialists from India dwelt on medical issues affecting women.

# **CHB Session in photos**



During the Opening Ceremony at the Karimjee Hall, pictured from left to right are the Tanzania Deputy Minister for Health, Husein Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Frederick Sumaye, former President of the Africa Federation, Mohamed Dhirani, President of Dar es Salaam Jamaat, Asghar Bharwani and then Chairman of the Central Health Board (CHB), Aunali Khalfan.



Presentation of a token of remembrance and certificate to the President of the World Federation, Hasnain Walji by the Hon. Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye.



Then Chairman of the Central Health Board, Aunali Khalfan delivering a welcome address during the official opening of the Medical Convention at the Karimjee Hall.

The historic Karimjee Hall that was the venue for the second Medical Convention.

# unali Khalfan delivering f the Medical Convention

# Dar Tabligh organises *Qadha* and *Qadr* seminar

The Tabligh Sub Committee of Dar es Salaam Jamaat organised a four day seminar on *Qadha* and *Qadr* from 30th June to 4th July 2001 (8 — 12h R Akher 1422).

The Session, held at the Dar es Salaam Gents Imambara was well attended by community members of all ages.

This year the sessions were conducted by the resident Aalim, Shaikh Musi Ridha.

Last year the Committee also organised a similar seminar when two prominent scholars, Sayyid Jawad Naqvi and Dr. Murtadha Alidina, were invited from Qum to conduct the seminar.

The subjects discussed last year were Women in the mirror of Islam, Tauheed and Philosophy of Sex in Islam

The Tabligh Section intends to conduct such sessions regularly in future. Audio/Video recordings of the proceedings are available at the Tabligh Centre in Dar es Salaam.

#### Dar Tabligh supports Nigeria library

Following a request from the An Nur Islamic Library in Nigeria, the Dar Tabligh section has sent a package consisting of audio cassettes and various books in order to facilitate further propagation in West Africa.

### Dar Tabligh offers Career Guidance

The Tabligh Resource Centre of Dar Es Salaam now offers on-line career development assistance at TShs. 10,000/-.

Personal details of counsellors are not given but the committee provides an assurance that they are well qualified to provide professional guidance.

Dar es Salaam residents can register at the Tabligh Bookstore while non-Dar Es Salaam residents should email tablighclient@hotmail.com for more details.

# Dar Tabligh organises book-stalls at two venues

For the first time, Tabligh Committee of Dar es salaam Jamaat organized a bookstall at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Center. The stall was held for 5 days from 21<sup>st</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2001. The committee also had a book stall at the International Saba Saba Trade Fair in Dar es Salaam during the first week of July.

The Diamond Jubilee bookstall had a very good attendance of people of different nationalities most of who were Tanzanians. Items displayed in the stall included books, Cds, audios, posters, stickers and key chains while various Islamic videos were showed. These included Islam Empre, Introduction to Islam, Ashabe Kahf and Sura Rahman with background pictures.

There were more than 500 titles including children books, Bilal publications, Holy Quran, and various Islamic Academic Books like 'A Young Muslim's Guide to the Modern World' of Sayyid Husayn Nasr, 'Clinging to Myth - the story behind evolution' by T H Janabi etc.

Many visitors were interested in the Kiswahili audio lectures given by Shaikh Abdillahi Nassir. There were many titles of his audios on display and these are also available at the Tabligh office across the Dar es Salaam Mosque. Besides his audios, many Quran audios and Cds were sold. Mama Anna Mkapa visited the Stall and as a gesture of goodwill was presented with a gift.

The bookstall at the Saba Saba Ground also drew many visitors who showed keen interest in the books, audio tapes and CDs on display.

Following the good response and awareness that resulted from the two bookstalls, the Tabligh Section intends to organize more bookstalls at various places in the city.

# **Dubai to host Sports Festival in December**

At the last Supreme Council Conference held in Dar es Salaam, the Chairman of the Dubai Jaffery Sports Club, Mohamedraza Somji officially invited all Jamaats to take part in the Sports Council Festival to be held in Dubai during the Christmas holidays this year.

He said Dubai first hosted this event in 1995 during which 14 Jamaats and about 420 players participated. He said this year it is expected that some 600 players are expected to take part seeking glories in cricket, football, golf, volleyball, tennis and squash.

Some 22 Jamaats are expected to take part including Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Arusha, Kampala, Mombasa, Madagascar, Mumbai, Karachi, London (North and South), Peterborough, Birminigham, New York, Allentown, Toronto, Sweden and Orlando.

The projected cost of hosting the event is \$ 150,000 to \$200,000 as compared to \$ 125,000 that it cost to host the 1995 event. Jamaats have been called upon to confirm their participation early as December is a busy month in Dubai with most of the 450 hotels operating to almost full capacity.

Along with the sports festival, there will be a youth conference, which will be held for one day under the Patronage of the World Federation, hosted by the Dubai Jamaat.

All participating players should be Shia Ithnaasheri and members of their respective Jamaats and clubs for more than one year. The proposed number of players from each Club will be:

Chairman of the Club

One Manager

Cricket 14 players

Football (Soccer) 14 players

Volleyball 9 players (7 on the Ground)

Tennis 4 players

Squash 3 players

Golf 8 players

There will be no limits for individual players to play more than one game, however the schedule of play will have to be followed. All players will have to pay a participation fee of US\$ 100.00 per person. This was the rate set by the Africa Federation during the Festival held in Dar-es-Salam in 1997.

Accommodation will be provided on sharing basis among participating players for the duration of the event. All three meals of the day will be provided only to participating players and officials for the duration of the event. Pick up and drop off from airport and all transport required from the hotel to the playing venues as well as for dinner and lunch will be provided for the duration of the event and for participating players and officials only.

The cost of visa will be borne by the players themselves. Visas are no more required by citizens of Western European, Canada and the USA. For them, visas will be issued at the airport on arrival at no cost. For the rest of the world, visa costs are US\$50.00. The organisers are liaising with Emirates Airline to fly all participants to Dubai on special discounted fares.

The event is expected to be graced by officials from the World and Africa Federation along with many Jamaat Presidents.

# AF analyses survey feedback from community members

In order to comprehend the needs and aspirations of the Community, the Africa Federation sought views by distributing a simple questionnaire form during the Conference in Dar es salaam. About 95 members submitted their forms. A review of the forms showed:

- Out of 135 registered members in the book, 95 managed to submit their forms. This is a good representation of those who attended the Conference.
- 2. Although the view from the younger generation was less then half at 37%, the overall comments offer a good representation of views from our Community.
- 3. Of those who submitted the forms, 55% were delegates, 27% invitees and 26% Councilors.
- 4. Although English is the preferred communication language, Gujarati is still preferred by nearly 46% of the members. Many members filled both as the preferred language.
- The Federation Samachar is the best communication medium, while the e-mail and Internet are catching up.
- Members feel that Higher Education, Tabligh and Health are the first three priorities of our Community. Communication and Schools are also the concern of over 20% of the members.
- About 93% of the members prefer advance copies of the minutes, reports, and accounts for their review before such gatherings. The Secretariat will have to take this into consideration before the next

Supreme Council meeting.

Although 93% want documentation in advance, about 61% would like such gatherings to be of short duration with emphasis on crucial issues that are important to the Community.

The summary of ALL comments is presented below and interested members can comprehend the views of the Community.

#### SUMMARY OF THE DATA **COLLECTED AT THE 21ST** TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Number of respondents - 95 2. Age Group in percentage of total

respondents:

Below 25 - 9%

26-35 11%

36-45 17%

46-55 28%

56-65 21%

+65 14%

3. Percentage representation:

Councilors 26%

Delegates 55%

Invitees

4. Languages preference:

- 73% Gujarati - 46% English 5. Present communication

media: Samachar - 69%

E-mail - 56%

- 35% Internet

6. Issues of concern and priority:

39%

Higher Education 75%

Tabligh

Health 36%

33%

Communication Our Schools 21%

21% Circulars

Federation Samachar 18%

Migration 13% Restructure Jamaats 12%

12% Finance 9%

Restructure Federation Secretariat

2% Planning

7. Preference to receive the minutes/ reports/accounts in advance:

8. How YES 93% NO 7% best should the Conference be arranged in the future:

(a) Same as present

(b) Long duration (as present) but with advance documentation - 32%

(c) Short duration with advance documentation - 61%

Brief Comments on Crucial Issues:

#### Higher Education:

Encourage more students to go for higher education/speed the process.

- Career guidance at our schools is very crucial

Should encompass the Community Schools and start University/Colleges

- Create a foundation fund and use the income for loans/grants

- Sponsorship for those who wish to undertake careers beneficial to our institutes

#### Tabligh:

- Find best methods to enhance tabligh within our Community and others
- Encourage our youths to become religious scholars
- Those doing fine work, must be supported.
- Educate Khojas to accept and unite with other converted brothers
- Standardise the Madressah Syllabus and Examinations

#### Health:

Undertake awareness campaign in all Jamaats and frequent screenings

- Improve facilities at our hospitals
- Improve helping the poor through an office in India, etc.

Involve women in many aspects of health e.g. diet control.

Communications and Circulars:

- Keep constant and fast communication at all levels including transpar-
- Gujarati or common language should be encouraged
- Members to be made aware of the available media

(continued on page 71)

Federation Samachar

#### (...from page 70)

- Ensure ALL Jamaats have email facilities for fast communications

#### Schools:

- Must be able to provide better standard of education and morals.
- Must engage professional teachers
- Encourage more Jamaats to start self-sustaining schools
- Community students to be given priority in getting admission

#### Federation Samachar:

- Keep it up and combine with World Federation/Nasimco information
- Improve and increase the web site
- Send short version by e-mail regularly

#### Migration:

- Encourage students and deserving/interested members to migrate
- Try to stop the Brain Drain to the West
- Form Setwel boards at Jamaat level for migration

Restructuring Jamaats: Need for having educated and matured
leaders - Include
youths and women in Jamaat affairs

#### Finance:

- Help our community members for higher economical standards
- Streamline the collection of all dues; Include small contributions -Work on schemes to create appropriate funding of the Secretariat

#### Restructuring Federation:

- Let youths and ladies take active part in Community Organisations
- Remove bureaucracy and take grassroot opinions

Centralisation is important for the unity of the whole Shia Community

#### Secretariat:

- Selection of the sportsman of the year should be done annually with no exception

#### Planning:

- Adequate and good planning is paramount for a successful institution

#### General Comments:

Office bearers should visit Jamaats regularly (at least once a year)

- Give priority & time for crucial issues e.g.. Education, economic upliftment, etc.
- Time has come to talk less and get

more work done with brief presentations

- Councilors must take an active role and keep the community informed
- Encourage group discussions between Jamaats/Federation/Community Involve the youths at as many levels as possible.
- Keep close contact with Councilors, especially with matters of OB meetings.
- Supreme Council meeting should be held every 2 years and Conference every 4 years

Keep good relations with similar institutions like World Federation

- Take care of small Jamaats in all aspects
- Keep adequate microphones during conferences

Call meetings every six months to keep Jamaats/Members informed

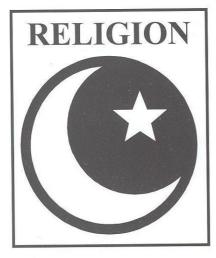
- Make conferences a family affair with recreation at the end
- Prepare a summary of ALL past resolutions.
- Improve sitting arrangements and place more comfortable chairs during Conferences.

A special task force under the able leadership of Alhai Hassan Alimohammed Jaffer has been formed to review these comments. The task force is expected to interview past Office Bearers and various Board Members and seek their views and opinions on various issues raised and develop comprehensive questionnaire forms that will be approved by the present Office Bearers. The task force with assistance from the Office Bearers is then expected to arrange and conduct workshops and/or seminars at as many Jamaats as possible to ensure that questionnaire forms are correctly filled in. The task force is expected to cover the main Jamaats and will then present their findings and recommendations to the Secretariat, who will review and prepare a final draft. The Secretariat will distribute the report to ALL the Jamaats and will implement as many of the recommendations as possible. The Draft report will be presented during the next Supreme Council meeting expected to be held in March/April, 2002 for guidance and

adoption. All comments will be incorporated in the Final Draft to be presented in the Conference to be held in early 2004 for final approval. This will be called the STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE AFRICA FEDERATION.

The Secretariat, taking cognizance of the views expressed by the Community, will try its utmost to improve its efficiency to satisfy the aspirations of the Community. Some of these activities will be:

- Keep close contact with the World Federation Secretariat in all aspects;
- Organise meeting between the School Boards for enhancing the corporation between the Schools with regard to inspection, sharing of resources, career guidance, etc;
- In corporation with World Federation, start and consolidate the funding for higher education;
- Request the Trustees with maybe a professional to inspect and report to the Secretariat the status of the Alibhai Panju Godowns in Dar es Salaam.
- Improve Tabligh activities;
- Improve Health awareness;
- Start brief monthly circulars to keep the Community well informed;
- Undertake as many visits to Jamaats and their institutions;
- Work out the modalities of making the Federation Samachar an international magazine for the Community;
- Agree with World Federation, NASIMCO and other sister organisations on the modalities of collection of dues and its distribution. After the modalities have been agreed, seek appropriate authority from our Marjah.
- Solve the volatile status of our Somali brothers in the best possible manner.



#### Sayings of Imam Ali (a.s.)

- + To render relief to the distressed and to help the oppressed make amends for great sins.
- + O son of Adam, when you see that your Lord, the Glorified, bestows His Favors on you while you disobey Him, you should fear Him (take warning that His Wrath may not turn those very blessings into misfortunes).
- + The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.
- + When you have to depart from this world and have to meet death (eventually), then why wish delay (why feel nervous about death).
- + Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.
- + The best kind of wealth is to give up inordinate desires.
- + One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.
- + Recommended prayers cannot attain the pleasures of Allah for you when obligatory prayers are left unattended.
- + A fool's mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wiseman's tongue is under the control of his mind.
- +The sin which makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah (s.w.t.) than the good deed which turns you arrogant.

# Holy Qur an contains astonishing mathematical facts

In his series of the scientific miracles in the holy Qur an, Dr. Tariq Al Suwaidan refers to astonishing mathematical facts in the holy book that reiterate the fact that it is a perfect book revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) for the benefit of mankind only few of who actually take advantage of benefiting from its teachings. The Quran tells us: "(This is a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge, etc.), and then explained in detail from One (All h), Who is All-Wise and Well-Acquainted (with all things)."(Quran 11:1)

One comparison that Dr. Tariq discovered through verses in the Holy Quran is that the holy book literally equates men to women. Although this makes sense grammatically through the many verses that tell us of the importance of both sexes, the astonishing fact is that the number of times the word man appears in the Quran is 24 and the number of times the word 'woman' appears is also 24, therefore not only is this phrase correct in the grammatical sense but also true mathematically (24 = 24).

Upon further analysis of various other verses, he discovered that this is consistent throughout the whole Quran, where it says one thing is like another. See below for some astonishing results: -

The word number of times mentioned in Arabic Quran:

Dunia (one name for life) 115 ÆAakhirat (one name for the life after) 115 Malaikat (angels) 88 Æ Shaytan (satan) 88

Life 145 Æ Death 145

Benefit 50Æ Corrupt 50

People 50 Æ Messengers 50

Eblees (king of devils) 11 Æ Seek refuge from eblees II

Museebah (calamity) 75 Æ Thanks 75

Spending (sadaqah) 73 Æ Satisfaction 73

People who are Mislead 17 Æ Dead people 17

Muslimeen 41 Æ Jihad 41

Gold 8 Æ Easy life 8

Magic 60 Æ Dissuasion, misleading 60

Zakat (taxes Muslims pay for the poor) 32 Æ Barakah (increasing or

blessings of a wealth) 32

Mind 49 Æ Noor (light) 49

Tongue 25Æ Sermon 25

Desire 8 Æ Fear 8

Speaking publicly 18Æ Publicising 18

Hardship 114 Æ Patience 114

Muhammad 4 Æ Sharee\*ah (Muhammad teachings) 4

Man 24 ÆWoman 24

And amazingly enough have a look how many times the following words° appear:

Salat (Prayer)

Month 12

Days 365

Sea 32 - Land 13 - Sea + land = 32 + 13 = 45

 $\% \text{ sea} = 32/45 * 100 \%^{\circ \circ} = 71.111111111$ 

% land= 13 / 45 \* 100 % = 28.88888889 = 100.00

Modern Science has only recently proved that water covers 71.111 % of the earth, while land covers 28.889 %.

#### BOOK REVIEW -- 'Basic Beliefs of Islam'

Name of book: **Basic Beliefs of Islam**Author: Dr. Sayyed Qasim Mujtaba Moosavi Kamoonpuri
Publisher: Tanzania Printers Ltd.

First Edition: 2001 Number of pages: 164 Price: Tsh. 3000/-; US\$5.00

Reviewer: Munir Daya, Editor, Federation Samachar



Dr. Sayyed Qasim Mujtaba Moosavi Kamoonpuri

The book Basic Beliefs of Islam which is aimed for students studying Islam is a welcome effort by the author Dr. Sayyed Qasim Mujtaba Moosavi Kamoonpuri particularly because it clarifies on various down to earth issues and subjects about Islam that students are normally not clear about.

It has been common for students to learn scientific aspects of a subject in isolation without relating such aspects to the Creator. In this book the author explains well the link between science and Islam.

Common questions facing students, like "there are many different religions in this world with entirely different teachings and contradictory concepts. interestingly enough, all religions proclaim that they alone have all the truth while others are wrong. How can this be true?" or "religion does not allow us to enjoy life" are explained.

The choice of subjects and the style of addressing topics is conversational and communicates at a wavelength which students can easily relate to. The comments on Tawhid which include the subject 'Does science disprove the existence of God' and 'How to prove the existence of God at school level' are pertinent.

Similarly he explains well under the Federation Samachar.

section of 'Shirk' as to why Shias do touch and kiss sacred objects while at the same time clarifying that it is not obligatory to do so as long as there is true love for the Holy Prophet (sws) and the Holy Imams (a.s.). The rational explanation on confusion regarding Shirk is welcome.

The Chapter on Imamat is also very well prepared. The author has cautioned teachers to teach this subject in a purely academic manner without offending the adherents to the Sunni school of thought. He has outlined the Islamic guidelines to deal with such controversial issues and the logical explanation provided does well to draw unprejudiced Sunni students to accept or seriously consider the Shia viewpoint.

In the preface, the author delineates the challenge to teachers of Islamic Studies stating that there is a desperate demand that a scientific approach should be applied to teach Islam, both in traditional and secular institutions. This change is important as students spend most of their time in modern schools and colleges.

Though the book contains the same general range of topics found in comparable books, what the author has done differently is to present facts in a standard text book form, a format that college students are normally accustomed to.

In Chapter 17, where he discusses the 'stages of human existence' he has documented the evolutionary changes that occur from 'womb to tomb' in a precise chart similar to that found in modern science books.

There are 21 chapters and each chapter contains much information supplemented with diagrams that illustrate

the subject matter in an adequate way. A brief section to cover core concepts have been added at the end of longer chapters to assist students for quick revision.

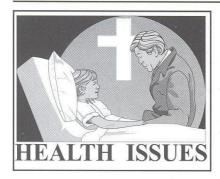
Missing in the book, which the author should consider while he prepares the second edition, are questions at the end of each chapter. This is quite common in text books of science and would prove beneficial to students by allowing them to cross-check their understanding of the subject covered.

The aim of the book, according to the author, is to make Muslim students firm believers in basic beliefs of Islam through analytical explanations associated with scientific facts. The objective is also to enable students to understand Islam in a correct perspective.

Dr. Kamoonpuri is currently writing a series of text books to cover the whole syllabus of madressa, classes one to twelve and O-level and A-level Islamic studies. In his second book for A-level students, entitled 'Allah - the Lord of the Universe' which will soon go to press he explains and proves tawheed with the help of Newton's law of motion.

For the book 'Basic Beliefs of Islam' the writer deserves all congratulations and encouragement for his noble endeavour and commendable attempt of blending basic Islamic beliefs with scientific explanations. He has done a great service to students of Islamic studies with this useful text book that covers a major part of the O-level syllabus.

Muslim schools and seminaries as well as traditional madaris should seriously consider introducing this book as part of their teaching syllabus.



Many men don t even think about their blood pressure. Well, maybe you do, when someone makes you mad or you get really upset about something. Aggravating events tend to cause a temporary rise in blood pressure.

What we re talking about here is something more serious: hypertension, or high blood pressure that remains elevated over time. This condition can be a symptom of something else going on in your body or, uncontrolled, it can signal problems to come. Keeping your blood pressure under control is tremendously important to your overall health.

High blood pressure is often silent or without symptoms until a major problem develops. That s why it is essential to see your family doctor for checkups on a regular basis. Such checkups can literally save your life. Your doctor can help you prevent high blood pressure or, at minimum, treat it at an earlier stage when it s easier to manage.

The lowdown on high blood pressure Blood pressure is the force of flowing blood against the walls of the arteries. It is measured in two numbers ...for example, 140/90. The first number (140) is systolic pressure, the pressure when the heart contracts and pumps the blood through the body. The lower number (90) is diastolic pressure, the pressure between pumps, when the heart is resting.

120/80 is considered normal. You have high blood pressure (hypertension) if your blood pressure reading is equal to or greater than 140/90 for extended periods of time. Elevated blood pressure means your heart is working harder than normal, putting both your heart and arteries under a

# Pressing high pressure down

greater strain.

What causes high blood pressure? The cause of high blood pressure is unknown in 90% of cases. This is called essential hypertension. In secondary hypertension, a disease or other physical problem is behind the disease. Common causes are kidney or thyroid disease. Many factors are associated with high blood pressure, including genetics, age, race, stress, obesity, smoking, a high salt diet, smoking, excessive consumption of alcohol or a sedentary lifestyle.

What are the symptoms? High blood pressure can develop over many years with no noticeable symptoms. That s why regular blood pressure checks are so important. Only when high blood pressure is severe do symptoms appear. Warning signs can include nosebleeds, racing or irregular heartbeat, headaches, and dizziness. It s a mistake to conclude that you don t have high blood pressure because you don t have any symptoms.

#### Males are affected earlier

Men are more likely to develop high blood pressure than women in young adulthood and early middle age; thereafter, the incidence of high blood pressure is higher among women. In general, our blood pressure tends to rise as we get older that s true for both men and women.

High blood pressure is serious business. Allowed to run unchecked, it can cause many health problems, including heart attack, stroke, kidney damage, and blindness. On average, people with uncontrolled high blood pressure are:

Seven times more likely to

have a stroke.

- Six times more likely to develop congestive heart failure.
- Three times more likely to have a heart attack.

#### How to keep high blood pressure under control

If you are diagnosed with high blood pressure, it's extremely important that you follow your doctor's treatment guidelines to the letter. These guidelines include keeping your diet low in fat, reducing your salt intake, quitting smoking, and limiting your alcohol consumption.

In addition, you should exercise regularly, keep your weight within normal bounds, and learn to manage stress (instead of letting it manage you). Some recent research suggests that constant stress and pressure may predispose some men to continually elevated blood pressure later in life.

#### Hey, what's wrong with salt, anyway?

Excessive salt can make high blood pressure worse. It causes water retention, which makes your heart work harder than it has to.

#### Checklist for control

- Have your blood pressure checked regularly. Your primary care physician can tell you how often.
- Stop smoking.
- Avoid excessive salt intake.
- Eat more fresh fruits, vegetables, and foods high in fiber...and less fat.
- Reduce stress on and off the job; master relaxation techniques.
- Exercise regularly, and keep your weight within normal limits.
- If your doctor prescribes medication to lower your blood pressure, be sure to follow his or her directions exactly.

### CURRENT LEGAL ISSUES

#### Interest (riba)

**Q:** What is the ruling on depositing money in banks sponsored by Muslim and non-Muslim governments, with the stipulated condition of receiving interest?

A: Depositing in banks of non-Muslim countries is permissible in every case, even if it is under the stipulated condition of obtaining interest. As for depositing in government banks of Muslim countries under the stipulated condition of obtaining interest, then it is prohibited. But, if it is without this condition, then the issue is free of interest (riba) but it is not permissible to spend the acquired money without referring to al-hakim al-shar i or his representative. (FM, p. 405)

**Q:** Is there a difference here between the principal and interest which the banks (in Muslim countries) give to the depositor?

A: No, there is no difference between these. One is not permitted to spend from anything taken from government banks in Muslim countries except by referring to al-hakim al-shar i or his representative. (FM, p. 405)

Q: If I know that the bank will give me interest even without stipulating the conditions, is it permissible for me to deposit in a savings account that takes the form of a term-deposit?

A: Yes, it is permissible, as long as you do not stipulate the conditions of interest. (FM, p. 406)



Ayatullah al Uzama Syed Ali al-Husaini Sistani. Federation Samachar

### English Version of *Al-Mustahdathat Minal Masaa'il Ash-Shari'a* according to the Edicts of Ayatullah al Uzama Syed Ali al-Husaini Sistani

#### .....legality of interest and credit cards

**Q:** Is it permissible to take interest from unbelievers, especially for those who live in their countries?

A: Yes, apparently one is allowed to take interest from the unbelievers, whose property is not honored. God knows best. (MMS, p. 27, Q49)

Q: A national bank (in a Muslim country) offers a project to its clients in which a person deposits a sum of money in the order of 1,000 dirhams as a deposit which can be withdrawn at any time. It announces that after a period of time, a lottery will be drawn and the bank will grant a specific gift to the investors. Is it permissible to deposit with this intention?

A: Depositing with the condition of a gift is usury and therefore prohibited. By condition is meant to make the deposit with the requirement that the bank should give the gift. But the mere knowledge that the bank will grant it (gift) does not harm the permissibility of investing and the lawfulness of the granted gift. God knows best. (MMS, p. 36, Q76)

**Q:** A person does not own a house to reside in. Is it permissible for him to borrow from government banks with interest for the purpose of building his own house?

A: It is not permissible to borrow with the condition of interest for any reason, but it is permissible to take the money from it (bank), though not with the intention of a loan, and to legitimize its spending by referring to alhakim al-shar i or his representative. (FM, pp. 406-7)

#### **Credit Cards**

**Q:** Some banks distribute cards free of charge or for a defined price such that:

1. It is possible to withdraw any amount from the bank without interest except for service charges for the bank machine.

2. If he (user) delays repayment by a month, then he is charged interest under the title of late payment and similar items.

What is the ruling for this in the event where repayment is delayed or otherwise?

A: There is no objection to withdrawing the amount with the intention of unknown owner (majhul al-malik), and not as a loan; it can be corrected by obtaining permission as mentioned in response to the next question. The person s knowing that the bank will demand repayment of the principal and interest does not impair this, and when the bank requests it (repayment), it should be made to it. (MMS, p. 31, Q61)

Q: Do you not give your followers (muqallids) a general authorization to dispose of and deal with unknown owner s property, and other transactions in it, by taking possession of the money from government or jointly-owned (private and government) banks without having to refer to alhakim al-shar i or his representative to rectify it, for the ease and facility for the believers? May Allah support and honor you.

A: Yes, we have allowed the believers may they succeed in attaining the Exalted Allah s pleasure to accept, through legal means from government or jointly-owned institutions, by taking possession of it (property) on behalf of those commissioned among the poor with the intention of performing acts of charity upon them (the poor). Then, they (the believers) can own it for themselves. This applies to salaries and the like. As for interest and the like, they are allowed to own half of it along the lines outlined, on the condition that they give in charity (sadagah) the other half to the religiously-devout poor. (MMS, pp. 32-33, Q65).



# Questions and answers from a series of books by Maulana Sayed Saeed Akhtar Rizvi titled by the same name

### Leadership - can we vote for leaders who are not religious?

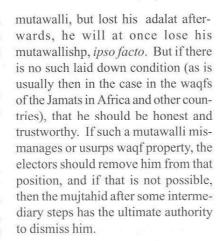
**Q.** (a) Can we vote for a leader or a person in any position to represent the community if we are certain of his short fall in religious behaviour?

Can this community have leaders who are not religious or who have no warmth for religious beliefs?

A. Leadership of Jamat is not a position laid down by Shari ah it is an urfi institution, i.e. based on conventional or customary system and practice. As such a Jamat or community, in moral excellence or decadence serves as a mirror of the moral standard of the electors. It is they who elect the leaders and it is for them to think beforehand what type of representatives or leaders they want to choose.

However, if that position of leadership entails mutawalliship of waqf properties, then the relevant rules of shariah will apply, which I append below:

If the waqif (who has made the waqf) has stipulated that the mutawalli should be adil, then a non-adil cannot become mutawalli; and if he was adil when he was chosen as



(b) If a person is holding any position already and he/she openly violates the religious duty, eg. Usurping the rights of the orphans, is it wrong to point out his defects in person with guidance from the Holy Quran with the aim that he may opt to reform?

A: Nahy, anil munkar should be done in private, if there is hope that he would reform himself. If there is no such hope, then Nahy anil mukar is not wajib on you. Other necessary actions them should be taken.

### Some items of Sea-food

**Q.** What is the fatwa of Late Ayatullah Al-Khoui or Ayatullah As-Sistani about eating crabs, squids, sturgenion, lobsters, ducks and rabbits?

A. Duck is lawful without doubt. Crabs, squids and rabbits are haram. Sturgenion reportedly has a few scales; therefore this fish and its eggs (caviar) are halal. Lobster like squid and crab is not counted as fish; and is haram.

### Suicide Bombing is prohibited in Islam

Q. Just recently I met a young Palestinian who fled his country due to the fact that he was asked to place a bomb on himself in defense against the Israelis. He opposed this ......and asked me my views. Does this practice have anything to do with Islam?

A. Such practices are not approved by Islam. Turning oneself into a human bomb is suicide which is unlawful in Islam. The Prophet (s.a.w.) used to instruct his army groups not to attack civilians, not to harm old people, children and women; in short, they were not to attack anyone who had not come out to fight them. The same instructions were given by his caliphs. But whom do these human boms (or carbombs etc.) make their target? Unarmed civilians, children, women, young and old who have gathered in a market, school or other such places. It is unmitigated terrorism and nothing else. It is not a defence against the Israelis and is in fact an offence against humanity at large.

The only situation when such action could be justified is if it is ordered by the Prophet (s.a.w.) or the oresent Imam (a.s.). But the Prophet is not alive and the hidden Imam is hidden from our eyes. And we are sure that they would not order such an act.

**Q.** *Bihawlillahi wa Quwwatihi Aqumu wa Aq'ud* ....should this be recited loudly or in a whisper?

**A.** You can recite it the way you like; it is better to recite it loudly after the rak'ahs in which Surah al-Fatiha and the other Surah are recited loudly, and in whisper in other rak'ahs.



by Maulana Sayed Saeed Akhtar Rizvi

### LEADERSHIP IN ISLAM

By: Muhammad Abdulhussein, Dar es Salaam

Almighty Allah by entrusting your affairs to me has given me right over you, and as I have right over you, so too, you have a right over me (Imam Ali (a.s).

Leadership refers to the process of moving people in a planned direction by motivating them to action through non-compulsive means. Good leadership moves people in a direction that is truly in their long-term interest. The direction could be general as reaching out to the world of Islam or as specific as holding an issue-oriented conference. In any case, the means and in the end should serve the best interest of people involved in a real and long-term sense.

Leadership is both a role and a process of influencing others. The leader of a group who is given a certain rank and is expected to perform in a manner consistent with that rank; also, a leader is a person who is expected to exercise influence in forming and accomplishing the group s goal. An honest leader is the one who leads and not the one who manipulates to lead.

Effective leadership is the process of creating a vision developing strategy, enlisting cooperation and motivating action. The effective leader creates a vision of the future that takes into account the legitimate long-term interest of the parties involved, develops a rational strategy for moving toward that vision, enlist the support of the key power centers, whose cooperation, compliance or teamwork is necessary, to produce that movement and highly motivates that core group of people whose actions are central to implementing the strategy.

The Prophet (s.a.w) said that the leader of the ummah is its servant, thus the leader should be in the business of serving and helping others get ahead. Some important factors that characterize Islamic leadership are as follows:

1). ALLEGIANCE: The leader and the led are bound in allegiance to Allah (SWT).

2). ISLAMIC GOALS: The leader perceives the goals of the organization not only in terms of interests of the group but also in terms of wider Islamic objectives.

3). ADHERENCE TO THE SHARI AH AND ISLAMIC MANNERS: The leader is not above observing Islamic injunctions, and can only continue in office as long as he adheres to what the shari ah has enjoined. In the conduct of his affairs, he must adhere to Islamic manners, particularly in dealing with the opposition or dissidents.

There are three basic principles of Islamic Leadership: Mutual consultation (*shura*), Justice, and freedom of thought.

a). Mutual Consultation: Shura is the first principal of Islamic leadership. The Qur an has made it clear that Muslim Leaders are obliged to consult those who have knowledge or those who can provide sound advise.

And those who answer the call of their Lord and establish prayer, and who conduct their affairs by consultation and spend out of what we bestow on them for sustenance (Q.42: 38).

The practice of **Shura** enables members of the Islamic organization to participate in the decision-making process, at the same time; shura serves to check the conduct of the leader in case he deviates from the collective goals of the group.

b). Justice: The leader should deal with people justly and fairly regardless of their status. The Qur an commands Muslims to be fair even when dealing with those who opposed him. And let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart

from justice; be just, that is next to piety (Q: 5:8)

The leader of an Islamic organization must establish an internal judiciary committee to settle the dispute or grievance within the group. The members of such committee must be selected among knowledgeable, pious and wise people.

c). Freedom of thought: The Islamic leader should provide for or even invite constructive criticism. Members of the group should be able to freely voice their views and have their questions answered.

The leader should strive to create an atmosphere of freethinking, healthy exchange of ideas, criticism and mutual advice so that the followers feel very comfortable in discussing matters of interest to the group.

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### FAMIBY ISSUES

It is wrong to believe that an equal sharing in decision-making between husband and wife on all issues of married life is workable, and worse, to believe that this arrangement ensures a successful matrimony. On the contrary, it is such a belief or hope which, if acknowledged as a natural norm for success, can be a cause for a marriage break-up when the expectations from this arrangement are not seen to be realized.

The recrimination between the spouses will feature a prominent blame, not on the un-naturalness of the arrangement but mainly on the husband - as a scapegoat - who did nothing more than often respond to his male instinct of protectiveness and impulsive assertion and, therefore, make decisions and act on them simultaneously and resolutely. These will be seen as his sins in the context of the arrangement.

This arrangement which is ardently advocated in the West is a mere readjustment to accommodate the trend of the so called women liberalization. Not strangely, this unnatural trend has to be tended and kept going by an equally unnatural arrangement.

#### Polygamous By Nature

Man is polygamous by nature. Islam permits polygamy. The Islamic teachings and values succeed well because they *match perfectly with the differing* psychological and emotional nature of men on the one side and that of women on the other. And their respective nature of behaviours and response



By Mohamed A. Khalfan Dar es Salaam

# Men and Women are Poles apart

too is therefore, different to facilitate in turn the complemental physiological roles and functions so that the human race not only survives but also functions as designed by the Creator.

The holy Qur an has imposed upon men the responsibility of being the guardians (maintainers) of women, (4:34), the latter being the trust in the loving protection of men. The holy Qur an further mentions not only of the love and compassion placed between the spouses, but also mentions them as a sign for those who reflect. (30:21). And if we reflect we see the kind of love which is more complemental to each other s than the exact reciprocation in match.

It will be appreciated therefore that men with their masculine nature by design derive a natural sense of ful-fillment as the guardians of trust by protecting, guarding and caring for their spouses with tender love; and women on their part derive the sense of the fulfillment of womanhood by the feeling of being loved through seeing that she is being maintained, protected, guarded and cared for as trust.

This therefore defeats any reasoning in favour of the equal decision-sharing arrangement. Of course, there normally does exist a fair degree of sharing in the decision making, regardless of whether the wife is a housewife or not, but this arrangement is sustained naturally by a mutual admission of the reality of life, consciously or sub-consciously, that the final say is the husband s unbegrudged share. And the reality of life is the product of the rules of the human nature.

#### **False Expectation**

What is alarming is that the cultivation and advocacy of the belief in this arrangement is raising a false expectation in the minds of our youth that the existing natural functionality in marriage can be modernized by a supposedly improved version of what is perceived as just and right in the form of equal-sharing to the final say! when in fact this can be the very cause for the expectation to be dashed.

Matrimony in the human race represents the most important institution in life for furthering the purpose for procreation and this is sustained by male and female having been created differently for their respective physiological roles. It is therefore the distinctive differing instincts and behavioural traits in male and female which are so delicately and complementally balanced by nature that ensure matrimonial fruition.

It is worth noting that man s instinct of protectiveness can be satisfied to establish an equilibrium in the human society if there is in an interaction a passive match which feels satisfied at being protected, and this sense is said to be natural in women.

#### Re-assurance as a Woman

For an example, the wife is calmed down emotionally immediately after complaining to the husband, as soon as he returns from his place of work, about an incident that day at her place of work or with her neighbor-housewife. It will never dawn upon the husband to do so to her. It is the wise husband who would quietly listen to the wife s complaints against his familymembers and end the talk there without revealing whose side he is, rather than entering into an argument immediately to worsen the situation when all the wife had wanted was a re-assurance as a woman of his protection and guardianship, often without expecting him to say even a word in reply!

It is no wonder therefore that Islam has prescribed rules, roles and responsibilities which are heavier for men and has created him appropriately strong by nature in relation to women and his

(continued on page 79)

(...from page 78)

family. He will always be assertive - naturally!

In Islam a woman is adored as a symbol of chastity, love and trust. A wife is independent of her husband in the matter of management of her material wealth, however large, but she herself is strictly dependent upon his control and consent in the matter of her if fat and hijab as a manifestation of his sense of love and concern for her well being. Such is the wonderful ranking of priorities and values in Islam. To him she, as a trust, is more precious than all her material wealth, even if it is much larger than his.

What is however crucial to the success of a marriage is how man channels his masculine propensity. He has to prevail with an affectionate tact and be seen to behave with responsibility to enjoy respect, loyalty and complemental affection from the family. This is a moral duty for which all men are accountable to the Creator. Therefore a wife can be satisfied with an almost full say while the husband always has a final say if or when needs arise. However, the husband has to earn it in the eyes of the wife..

#### A Strange Irony

It may seem a strange irony and yet again it is very much natural for the wife (or one of the wives) to assume the masculine role and responsibilities of the husband and have a final say in the family but this comes about if the husband abdicates his authority in which event his wife then has to take over to ensure a fruition of the matrimony.

It is like the instance of only one person having to handle the rein and ride the horse to make it trot. If this husband chooses to walk along and follow, then naturally it is the wife who mounts and shouts ha! . The rein will still be in one pair of hands and not with the pair of riders if both decide to ride. The husband can rightly brag before his guests (and look for their admiring looks) that the entire authority in the house is his because his wife

says so. A natural accommodation for an unnatural situation.

Queen Victoria is reported to have continued to suffer the loss of her husband, Albert because, unlike other widows, she was also an Emperor. While all around her and the entire nation and empire, were obedient to Her Majesty, she missed the natural role of being a wife in obedience to her husband! It is said that she kept herself away from London for long periods of time; it is believed that she derived more pleasure as a woman playing the head to the family in one of the royal castles than playing the head to the empire in the palace.

Likewise, full sympathy should go to the wife in the following piece of humour which depicts a matrimonial life not uncommon in the real life. The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask them who should have the present. Who is the most obedient? he asked. Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says? Five small voices answered in unison, Okay, dad, you get the toy.

In such cases, the wife is not truly allowed to be a woman by her husband. He would never get to know that he is depriving her of the rightful satisfaction of a rapture of womanhood. She would like to hear from him: Never do it that way again - never, honey! She would know gratefully that he cares and that he does not want her to get hurt. She would not want to miss him around while he affords her a meaning to a womanhood.

#### Woman s Strength

Woman s apparent physical weakness and her delicate emotions, as misinterpreted by man, are in fact her strength to fulfil her natural roles instinctively, as wife and mother, both at the same time. That is, so long as man fulfills his obligations towards her - by letting her being a woman.

But then, men generally have a long history of being unjust and selfish in their relation to women. Islam directs redress in this. It would hardly be surprising if the campaign for women liberalization was prompted by men themselves with the promise of a better life to women when knowing that the contrary can be true once men are able to emancipate themselves from the burden of this arduous responsibility of maintaining, protecting and caring for them.

The attempt is to reduce women as a symbol and purpose for sex only and to relegate the institution of marriage and all that ensues from it as peripheral in life! No wonder, some countries are already experiencing the alarming trend of a negative population growth. It has yet to dawn upon them that men and women are poles apart in creation for a single mutual purpose by design.

O Woman! How Terrible Is Thy Plight; When Man From Thee as Trust Takes Flight.

#### something <u>2</u>

#### THINK ABOUT

By Zuhayr Daya

The pair lived happily in their large home. They kept to themselves and had no enemies as far as anyone was concerned.

One day a hysterical maid ran to tell the cook that he had found them both dead on the living room floor. The cook ran with the maid to the living room and there, just as the maid had said, the bodies of both lay motionless on the floor.

There was no sign of violence, and the bodies were unmarked. There was no evidence of forced entry, but only some glass on the carpet.

The pair were not of a type to commit suicide and poison was also out of the question, as the cook had always prepared food for them himself.

On examination of the bodies the cook could not find any evidence as to the cause of death, but he did notice that the carpet was wet. How did they die, and who killed them?

#### ANSWER

The maid was the culprit. She toppled the bowl containing the pair of fish.

### Pursuing studies in Canada

Canada spends more per capita on its education system than any other country in the G-7 and is among the top three countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A degree from a Canadian university is recognized worldwide and as a result, international students who graduate from Canadian universities enjoy successful and prosperous careers.

The Canadian Education Centre (CEC) organises Education Fairs and seminars in India to elucidate information on studying in Canada. Round the year counselling is also provided by the CEC.

#### **Education in Canada**

Education in Canada is under the complete jurisdiction of the Provinces and Territories, and as such, there is no federal education system in Canada. In keeping with the national commitment to quality education, public education in Canada is free up to and including secondary school in all of the Provinces and Territories. However, each provincial system, while similar to others, reflects it's specific regional concerns, as well as its historical and cultural heritage. At the post-secondary level, institutions are divided into community colleges and universities.

#### Fees:

Fees for Universities differ depending on the province, institution and program of study.

#### University Year

The University year usually runs form September to May. Some Universities are on a semester or trimester system, with courses available even in the summer.

#### **Entrance Test**

There is no Canada-wide entrance test: each university sets its own admission standards and assesses the qualifications of each applicant individually.

#### Language Requirement

As Canada has two official languages-English and French-an international student can take a degree at either an English language or French language institution. Some universities offer instruction in both languages. However, students do not have to be fluent in both languages to attend a Canadian university.

To qualify for a degree programme at most English-speaking universities, students for whom English is not a first language is commonly accepted but Canadian universities often have their own tests for students or may accept other English tests such as the IELTS.

#### Financial Assistance

Limited financial assistance is available for most students coming from abroad. However, some schools may offer scholarships (based on academic merit) specifically for foreign students. It is best to ask the student advisor at your school to see what is available. However, keep in mind that many people apply for the4se awards and scholarships do not cover the entire cost of study. Students at the graduate level may qualify for assistantships (assisting professors in teaching and research) based on their academic abilities. Applications for this type of assistance are made through the university's financial aid office. Your local Canadian Education Centre also carries information on scholarships.

#### **Student Authorisation**

Studying in Canada requires a student authorisation. This authorisation allows you to remain in Canada to take an academic, professional or vocational training course at an approved university, Community college, University College, career college, public or secondary school or private ESL/FSL school.

A student authorisation is not required if the course you are taking is an English or French language course that lasts a maximum of three months and is not academic, professional or vocational in nature.

If you are interested in studying in the province of Quebec, you are required to obtain a Certificate of Acceptance (CAQ) from the Quebec government and a student authorization from the Government of Canada. Applications for a CAQ are available at educational institutions in Quebec. A processing apply for a CAQ before applying for a student authorization. Students wishing to study in other provinces or territories do not need CAQs. For more details visit: http://www.studyincanada.com

#### Guide for a Student Visa

The following documents are required for a student visa:

- Completed forms with required number of passport size photographs.
- Valid passport
- Visa fee (non-refundable)
- Unconditional offer letter from an institution for a full time course. It should specify the subject, fee and course duration.
- Proof of funding (eg. bank statements, Chattered Accountant's statement, letter from sponsor, income-tax papers, details of securities and liquid assets etc.
- Proof of accommodation.
- Attested copies of education certificates (originals to be produced as required)
- Proof of English language proficiency.
- Medical clearance if the course exceeds more than six months: this could take upto ten working days.0

## Off the cuff

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, there was a major schism within the Khoja community. A number of families chose to separate from the main Ismaili Jamaat to follow the path of the Ahlul Bait (a.s.). This schism brought about decades of trials and tribulations for the seceding families. For these new converts, this resulted in loss of business, family ties and even lives. At the same time, owing to severe economic hardships, many young Khojas sailed from Mandvi, Porbandar and other Indian ports and ventured towards East African shores in their dhows during the North Eastern Monsoons.

While the new lands offered boundless opportunities, the setting and prevailing influences called for a major reorientation. New to the place, they were faced with the daunting prospect of exploring a vast unexplored tract of land; having to deal with the indigenous people whose language or culture they did not know. As if this was not enough, they also needed to transact business with Arab traders who had been there for centuries

In addition to the African and Arab cultures these early settlers were subjected to a variety of European influences as they learned to deal with German rule in Tanganyika, British rule in other parts of East Africa, French rule in Madagascar, Italian rule in Somalia, Belgian rule in the Congo and Portuguese rule in Mozambique.

Against all these odds, these newly converted Khojas settled all over Eastern Africa and with help from each



by Hasnain Walji, USA

# I am mor e interested in where I am coming from than where I am going!!

other they flourished. Wherever they settled they soon formed themselves into a Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Community, commonly known as the Jamaat. Is it any wonder therefore, that this bewildering array of influences may well have engendered a fear in the minds of the Khoja of losing their identity? Would this explain the persistent perseverance by the Khojas to remain within a well-knit framework of the Jamaats and Federations, guarded so jealously, resisting any intrusion?

Such are the nuances of our history. These facts of history in themselves have little or no relevance to the present. Except, perhaps to state that the splinter group has today grown into a vibrant community numbering some 125,000 men, women and children spread in virtually all corners of the globe. However, to believe that history is merely concerned with the past is either being naive or ignorant. Perhaps both. Unless we analyze historical data and make value judgments, these facts of history will merely remain a record of a bygone age worthy of preservation in archives and muse-

When Mulla Nasruddin, was spotted riding his donkey, facing backward, he was asked why? He replied: Its just that I am more interested in where I am coming from than where I am going!!

More than ever, we need to ponder over our history as we look forward. For example, if the community were faced with similar choices today, where in the interests of preservation of its values and beliefs it had to knowingly sacrifice lives, relationships as well as material possessions, would it remain steadfast and make that conscious choice? In the modern context, spread across the globe, faced with the issues of globalization, informatization and pluralism will it mange to remain intact in its faith and values?

Honest self-analysis and introspection will give a true reading of the level and intensity of our convictions. Similarly, a closer look at social, intellectual, political and cultural events in history will enable us to determine the differences and parallels between the past and the present to help us plan for the future. Understandably, the new generation is questioning the modus operandi and the insularity of the community whilst the old guard insists upon retaining what has worked well for the community for almost a century.

The fact that a community, that has almost lost a language that it can call its own, which has never had a land it could call its own, subjected to a multitude of conflicting influences, has managed to survive for so long as a homogeneous unit must have some interesting and invaluable lessons in self-preservation. What can we learn from our past to preserve this for the future?

The answers lie in the study of our history. This will highlight the pattern in which our institutions and organizations endeavored to cater for the needs of the community. It will reveal the thought processes of the leadership of the time in dealing with conflicting forces within the larger society. Such a study will enable the community to understand the actions of the present and future leadership in combating such forces, whether these are in the form of an alien set of values or dividing elements in the name of Islam.

It is this kind of evaluation that will enable us to use history as an effective tool in dealing with contemporary challenges and planning for the future. In the absence of such evaluation, we will be relegated to becoming mere joy riders on a merry-go round controlled by outside influences.

(continued on page 83)

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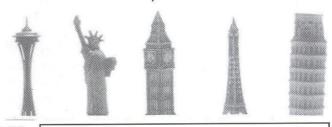
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# ANON

### A column on topical issues

### Answers braced with Emotions are Suspect.

There was a time when means of communication and recording were elementary, limited and monopolised in the hands of the few in the history of the human society. Pieces of information were a commodity as precious as pieces of gold. An access to information was a privilege. The fewer the beneficiaries of the privilege more precious became the commodity.

Those who controlled the sources of information, few as they were, wielded power over the local community or people. So the establishments, notably religious and states grudgingly controlled the sources and use of information as a means of power over the people.

Only a few classes of people were considered entitled to literacy and it is they who were in step entitled to vote and be voted to political and religious offices. The precaution against the proliferation of literacy and erosion of power went to the extent that even Scriptures were not to be in the homes of the followers. For them was not what to read but what was to be read out.

However, as we are surprised that such a state of oppression should have prevailed against the upsurge of the human intellect, so are we also at the sudden explosion of new sources of information which the human society is now witnessing in the form of Information Technology and internet in this context. Such an unthinkable freedom of the sources of information is like the vengeance of the centuries of suppression.

But then for every freedom there entails the need for discipline. There is no better discipline than the one which is self-imposed. Internet has invaded and enthralled the human society; and

it is only the beginning.

Internet represents voluminous and prompt sources of information. It motivates a useful exchange of information and comments and privately serves for individuals as a ready means for learning what has been missed.

#### Rites And Rituals.

Rites and rituals, and also religious traditions and practices in the context of faith are one of the common subjects which are set forth or accessed on the internet by the community members.

There are those who ask for information on some of the rites or traditions, and those who ask the reasons or significance for them and yet there are those who would question their validity or relevance.

However, there can hardly be questions to which answers are absent or elusive, though not all answers may be explanatory enough to prove them satisfactory.

The matter of concern however is with regard to those respondents who themselves lack the answers sought but are generously abundant in the manifestation of emotions against the questions posted on the internet.

#### Result is obvious

The result is obvious. There may be those who cease or avoid seeking information for fear of being misunderstood or their sincerity questioned, and then others may be those who reciprocate by equally negative emotions to discredit this good source of enlightenment.

It will be of a great service if under a special set-up all such questions are individually directed to certain responsible quarters who will attend to also supplementary questions arising on any aspects of the subject.

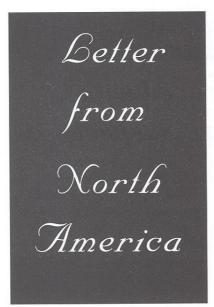
But then such quarters should not only themselves be seen refraining from answers which betray emotions but should also be ready to acknowledge the sincerity with which the questions are set forth. They should admit the inability to give full justice to the questions where good answers are difficult to come by. Just any answers for their sake will no longer do. Besides, answers braced with emotions make them suspect.

### I am more interested....

(.....from page 81)

Let us also be aware that as an additional challenge; there are forces, which are intent on wrenching the independence of the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Community under the pretext of religion and faith. The Muawian stratagem of using the politics of using the Qur an (as Ayatullah Mutahhari aptly phrases it) is very much alive today.

We owe it to our future generations to ensure that we are in control of our own destiny, have the freedom to make our own decisions and plan for the continued existence of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Community as a homogeneous group in charge of its own affairs until the zuhur of Imame Zamana (A.S). Needless to state, we must focus on the best way of ensuring that the future generations can retain the values and teachings as taught by the Ahlul Bait (AS). For that is and can be the only objective.



# The Shias of North America....

The Shi a have been in North America, especially United States for a very long time. There is a very large Lebanese Shi a community in Dearborn, Michigan.

However, our primary concern for the moment is Shi a of Indo-Pak origin, including from Africa who predominantly are the Khoja.

It was after the exodus of the Ugandan Asians in 1972, that the history started to shape up. Communities were built in various parts of North America and many centres were built/purchased.

Initially, all the Shi a, irrespective of their origin went to one centre. Then for various unjustified reasons - ethnicity, culture, ego, increasing immigration - resulted in new centres being created. This would be fine had this been done on a co-ordinated manner, under one roof - several centres but one overall management. But this was not to be. We all wanted to maintain our back home Mentality . The concept of North American Shi a is still not in place. Each centre wants to live within its own four walls .

Visits to the several Shi a centres shows that there is no genuine attempt at meeting the challanges faced by the Muslims in North America. We simply want to carry out our traditions without living the traditions. The maullanas find comfort in living in the past. They and the communities are not willing to live in the present or think of the future in a real sense.

The recent trend is to build multi-purpose centres with a view to encouraging the community, especially the youth to be active at the centres. But the question is doing what?

In order for the community to be vibrant and to ensure that the youth of tomorrow will be effective leaders, the systems need to change completely.

The monologues have to change to dialogues. The resident religious scholar has to be vibrant and involved in community affairs, especially with the youth. This is one person who has has to be ultra-proactive.

There is a need to encourage youth from different ethnic backgrounds to join forces to form tomorrow s future. Let there be a North America Shi a, not Lebanese, Iranian, Iraqi, Pakistani, Indian or Khoja Shi a.

Currently, except for some individual efforts, there is no planned effort on the part of the community to let the North Americans, including the Muslims know what Shiism is. There is effective tablig work done by our Sunni brothers and that is why many non-Muslims end up becoming Sunni. Our message, which is more complete, does not reach the non-Muslims.

Then there are the issues of inter-action with the majority Muslims, media and the politicians. These have to be our top priorities.

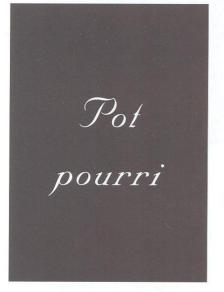
Recently when I was in New York, we attended a fund raising event. This was for production of documentaries on Islam. This was done our Sunni brothers.

This is what needs to be done. Community centres, irrespective of multipurposality of them, will continue to keep us ritualisitic Muslims and not Living Vibrant Muslims. It is the Living Vibrant Muslim who will be more confident of his/her religion than the ritualistic four wall cornered Shi a of today in North America.

NASIMCO was formed to encourage some of the above - especially get all the Shi a together. This, unfortunately has not happened. More work needs to be done.



by Ghulam Sajan, Toronto



# No sex, we're single ....a South African example

The advent of AIDS in the eighties has made the world realise the Truth that Islam has been advocating from the time of our Holy Prophet AS (PBH). The rules governing Marriage and any other association with the opposite SEX are clearly laid down in The Holy Quran. It is only now that the Western society is accepting that IS-LAM has been right all along, at least in this sphere. It will not be very long before they realize that ISLAM is true in every respect and in fact a Total way of Life!!!!!

More than 300,000 young South Africans have pledged to wait until marriage before they lose their virginity. This is a campaign to change the mindset of young people in the age of so called free love

A World wide organization called LOVE WAITS is spearheading an unusual (according to western standards) drive to encourage young people to make a commitment to abstain from sexual intercourse until marriage. They have already got over a million young people throughout the world to pledge - Believing that True love waits, I make a pledge to God, myself, my family and my future spouse, to be sexually pure until marriage

In a society ravaged by crime, moral decay, life threatening disease, and poverty, we believe TRUE LOVE WAITS is like a ray of hope. We are not saying that sex is bad. We believe that sex was created by God for marriage. It is a means for married couples to express their love for one another. Whenever we conduct talks, we always use the example of a fire in a fireplace. If it is contained within the fireplace, there are no problems, but if the fire is taken out of this area it could possibly burn the house down. The same applies to sex out of wedlock.

The True Love Waits campaign was launched in the United States in 1993. In Africa is started with South Africa in 1994. Members are so contented that at least for the first time they are experiencing **positive peer pressure**. The parents are proud that their children have committed to staying pure till marriage. Can you imagine the necessity of forming such an Organization while ISLAM preaches these attitudes as part of daily Life?

The above will serve as an eye opener to some of our modern youths who still look with ridicule at Islam's guidelines on Social and moral behaviour.



by Dr. Asghar Moledina, Maputo

### **Magnetic Mirror**



BDUCATION ?

Education. The idea has no substitute in the battle of life and no better armor exists in life's battlefield as that of 'it'. The phenomenal concept of education implies the begetting of knowledge, values and culture- one who undergoes this enlightening will ripen physically, intellectually, heartily and righteously.

In the great old days, imparting of education was more a matter of concern to religion and family- history and evolution of education states that, during the earlier times religion was propagated, while promoting the traditions of people took place.

Now coming on the current scene, trends of learning and selection of preference have drastically changed. While traditional definitions of education remain intact, new methodologies, disciplines and scopes have tremendously evolved.

Education in true sense implies much more than mere credentials. The educated will behave in a manner that will please all: courte-ous in disposition, compassion in attitude, respectful to elders, empathizing with the have-nots, never will persecute the sentiment of the other and at no cost will fall short of righteousness.

Come...the information age, we are being assailed by good and bad information that threaten to undermine our faith. We cannot isolate ourselves ignore the ideological challenges and what's happening around us...adhering to the realms of our faith has become an uphill task.



Contributed by: Akber Jaffer

As time is never static, so is development of all sorts. Tall cements and speeding vehicles pave the way to civilization; elsewhere, technology invades the street, to the point of confusing the enthusiast. So much of trash and value is floating around us. We being the captain of the ship it's up to us to steer it well, amidst the calm and turbulent seas of life, without losing the sight of the lighthouse.

The Answer Is **EDUCATION**...

...In The Right Direction

### Thinking Aloud

# What is a Jamaat? A cynical answer once heard was: A Jamaat is a special type of institution run by its own inmates!! Is that why 85% of the Community members who constitute the silent majority opt to keep away from the the Jamaat affairs?

Yet there is one exception to this rule. Those who pride themselves in belonging to the silent majority group are very much conspicuous with their presence, of all the places, at dozens of communal feasts organised annually on different occasions. The good old pilau still has some magnetic attraction.!

Go to a School or Madrasah. Collect students from Form 1 to Form 6 (age group 12-18) and ask them to pen a spontaneous response to a simple question: Who is a true practicing Muslim? I tried it once. The 70 odd answers collected were then analyzed by some Madrasah teachers and a School Headmaster. Conclusions derived were, to say the least, disturbing. Undertake a similar excercise in your area. You can start off with your own family. The results will be revealing.

At the 59th session of the Africa Federation Conference held in Daresslaam during April, this year, the question of the current state of the Community and what the future holds for us elicited a lively discussion.

Fifty years ago, the Community in Africa was estimated at around 20,000 heads. Fifty years later, despite 100% natural growth, the Community population in Africa still hovers around the



by Hassan Ali M. Jaffer, Mombasa Federation Samachar

# An intellectual *Intifada* for us?!!!

magical figure of 20,000. Reasons for this stagnating figure are known to all. Today there is hardly a family in Africa who does not have an immediate kith and kin or a close family friend settled in the West. History appears to be repeating itself. As it happened before with our compatriots in India, we now run the risk of losing contacts with our progeny settled in the West.

With our world wide population not exceeding 125,000 what future holds for us? Two questions come to mind. Fifty years hence, will the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Community survive globally as an ethnic community?

Judging by the prevalent trends and the demographic structure of the scattered community members especially in Europe, North America, Australia and to a lesser degree in Africa and elsewhere, chances are that we may end up losing much of our ethnicity. It is more than likely that in many parts of the world we may produce an entirely new mixed breed with only remote resemblance to the Khoja Community as we know of today.

While the loss of ethnicity could be tolerable, the question that must occupy the mind of every thinking person is that fifty years down the line, will our progeny remain as practicing Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslims?

If our current approach to religious education and practices is anything to go by, chances are that more likely than not, our faith will end up being diluted and our fate may well end up like that of the Indian migrants, both Muslim and Hindus, as they are to be seen today in Fiji and the Bahamas.

Do we recognise the danger? Everytime this question crops up for discussion, the rhetorical outcry we are confronted with is: What is the solution? We then go round and round the mulberry tree looking for a quickfix distraction in an unwitting attempt at diluting the seriousness the question

posed. Psychologists may term this tendency as a state of inbred fear to face the reality and the adoption of an escapist attitude.

At times, it appears, we tend to think and operate like the Israeli Jews!! There is a sizeable element within our society who operate with a frame of mind as if we are God's chosen people, assured of our ultimate salvation, regardless of our conduct on earth. We rely on others to look after our spiritual welfare. At the same time, we tend to repose infinite faith in divine intervention to bail us out - not withstanding our conduct. We feel so assured and contented in operating with this frame of mind.

The divine commandment of Verily Allah will never change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves (Ra d - Ch.13: V.11) is conveniently overlooked.

Strangely, any attempt at analytically reviewing our current understanding of the faith and the relevance of our practices is a taboo. The idea of any reformation or change that could disturb the *status quo* sends shivers down our spine. Tin gods feel endangered. Emotions run high. All attempt at approaching life with ma refa are curbed.

The Palestinian Intifada has helped to focus attention on the injustice and brutality of the Israeli rule. It has shaken the Israeli nation. It has pricked the Israeli conscience and made the world think of the rights of the Palestinians. In the process, Intifada has also jolted the Arab mind and laid bare their weaknesses. Do we also need an intellectual intifada to jolt us out of our slumber.!!

It is only after we fully recognise the seriousness of the danger posed for the spiritual survival of our progeny that we can mend our thinking and effectively work towards finding workable solutions. Do we recognise the danger?

### Wayside Wisdom

# Tackling priorities in Education

At community level we have taken strides in education worldwide by continuing to build educational institutions. Some, like the Al Murtaza School in Pakistan have consistently produced students with excellent results while others are bracing with the challenge to improve. The success of Al-Murtaza has been facilitated by a professional set-up, good teachers and fine discipline along with the fact that the school has a selection criteria whereby poor performing students are not admitted in the first place.

For most community schools the objective is to make schooling available to all our community students irrespective of their academic abilities and while this may to some extent justify less than ideal results, the onus is still on our institutions to transform the poor students to credible levels.

However having a good infrastructure is only part of our responsibility. A well-dressed man cannot automatically become a worthy man or for that matter a nice constitution of a country does not automatically make it well governed. A human system however well conceived and planned cannot be beneficially sustained without the services of a professional educationist in all our schools. Our schools need to recruit adept educationists to engender professionalism just like a library needs to be manned by a librarian who can read.

A good way to see the way forward would be to set out targets by of



by Munir Daya, Dar es Salaam

prioritising. The priorities can be differentiated from basic to primary and secondary priorities. Such priorities change from time to time depending on the circumstances but would generally follow the below trend.

Basic priorities — set up quality schools and establish an educational set-up in our Jamaats. Four Jamaats in Africa have already fulfilled this and Madagascar too will soon be launching its own school;

**Primary priorities** - After creating the facility and the infra-structure there come further objectives. For better expectations from the infrastructure we set up we should ask ourselves questions like:

a] does our institution provide good religious and secular education?

b] do our schools train students towards good discipline, behaviour and decent dressing; The holy Prophet has told us to ...guide people with humility and kind behaviour and make them learn human virtues and goodness in practical manners and teaching?

c] do we train students to respect fellow students and their teachers?

d] do we avail a professional Career Guidance Counsellors to guide students?

e] do we have adequate number of computers to allow adequate exposure to students?

f] do we have science laboratories that are to the required standard?

g] do we have libraries that have the right books and are run well?

h] do we have examinations/courses for local and international exams like IGSCE taking into consideration that many students may wish to pursue further education outside the country?

i] do we have trained and professional teachers who cannot only teach but also inculcate good behaviour and identify and develop shortcomings in children? I] do we teach our children to respect other religions and to encourage dialogue with all students?

J] do we encourage our children to take part in charitable and other social activities?

K] do we encourage involvement in national activities with an intention to contribute to society at large?

L] do we have adequate sporting facilities and are we serious to promote our sportsmen to be national cricket, squash or for that matter any sports players? Great sportsmen can be good ambassadors of our community and can create a greater impact than we can through our own in-house meetings and conferences;

M] do our schools have a well laid out succession plan to ensure that strategic positions are filled in without disrupting activities?

N] do we let parents be adequately involved in our schools? You cannot serve a community of parents unless you allow them to effectively be part of the school by considering their grievances in the most tolerant manner. Some of the views expressed by parents may be of an intolerant or destructive nature but what better way can there be to fight intolerance than by tolerance. And what better way can there be to fight impoliteness than through politeness.

O] do we have special classes for the slow learners?

P] do we have a facility to identify talent and special abilities and after identifying such talent, to promote such children for them to contribute early to our community and to society?

Q] do we have vocational training facilities?

R] Are our field trips made to worthwhile locations or are they only made with a bias for recreation?

S] do we adequately appraise our results?

(continued on page 89)

#### (.....from page 88)

T] do we offer a conducive working environment to our teachers, principals and administrative workers?

U] do we provide a system of scholarships to encourage students to be achievers?

V] do we encourage extra-curricular activities like promoting drama, writing skills etc.

W] do we have a capable recruitment team to employ new teachers?

X] do we maintain a record of teacher training courses pursued by each teacher?

Y] Are children taken around the school to see their new environment prior to school commencing?

Z] do we have counselors who can provide a balanced solution to a problem when there is a dispute involving a child? etc. etc.

Branching out from these primary priorities are our secondary priorities. Again this list is not exhaustive because we can never have an exhaustive list since to brace with changing times we continuously need to reset our priorities.

#### Secondary priorities - These include:

- 1] To ensure all our educational institutions are well managed and run schools need to recruit educationists to engender professionalism.
- 2] To create a system of having our schools inspected by independent professional educationists;
- 3] To create a common network between our educational institutions in order to allow the sharing of notes so that the progress or achievement of one institution becomes a guideline of another non-performing institution; School Boards from different parts of Africa need to meet to share resources;
- 4] To incorporate Islamic Education in our schools with the ultimate objective that students do not need to go to madressas thereby allowing them more time with their parents and for doing homework and indulging in sports and other forms of recreation; we should remember that by having children in madressas we often burn a candle from both ends!!!!!

- 5] To create professional Career Guidance facilities. Due consideration has to be made to the fact that we have many young girls who will need to go to universities conducive to our religion, culture and faith; To this effect we need to consider establishing a college in East Africa to absorb our students. Plans for this are in the offing.
- 6] To create a facility of establishing a higher education Trust Fund to ensure that all deserving students are not deprived of further education due to financial shortcomings. In a global economy where brains have become the prime commodity for which countries and companies compete we cannot afford to under fund education;
- 7] Publicise the institution at all levels with clear-cut objectives and longterm plans. This can be done by creating a PR department for the school that would publicise the achievements and activities of the school in different medias. Whether our schools are profit making or non-profit-making it is important to create a positive image for itself. This can also be helped by regular newsletters, hosting of a web page on the Internet, radio and TV coverage of activities, publicizing achievements in the Federation Samachar etc. It is also important that a fact and figures data for all our schools and colleges are prepared;
- 8] Establish colleges locally for teacher education and for professions that can accommodate successful students to the needs of modern day businesses. A step to this direction has already been taken by our brothers in Mombasa who have set up an Institute offering ACCA and IT courses; The Al Murtaza School in Pakistan which has maintained a 100% Matriculation Success rate over the years also provides teacher training courses;
- 9] Create satisfactory human resource planning to ensure that money and time is not spent on careers that students are compelled to abandon in the years to come; Here businessmen and industrialists within and outside the community have to be involved;
- 10] Maintain a data bank with impor-

tant information about the number of our students in various schools, how many opt for higher education, what careers they opt for, their success rate in education and sports — for example how many sportsmen have our schools produced who play for the national team of any country etc.

- 11] Encourage long distance learning through correspondence courses. Courses such as journalism, web page designing etc. can be done in this way.
- 12] Enhance communication between Board members, principals, teachers, administrators, parents and the children taking into account modern day communication advancements. In his book, Business @ the speed of thought Bill Gates has devoted a fair number of paragraphs, if not a chapter, elaborating on this.

Iin the holy Quran, Chapter 6 verse 50, Muslims have been called upon to think and reason. In this verse our Prophet was asked to deny all supernatural powers with preference being to one who sees and reflects, not to follow blindly. If we as a community find that the guidelines by the ministries in the countries that we reside in have shortcomings, we should not resign and set or abide by laid out systems but should seek for amendments through logical reasoning.

When we contribute to and help steer the course of macro-national development in the countries that we reside in be it through newspaper writing or by being involved in national educational boards we would then have taken a major step forward in our objective of setting new educational systems that are based with a blend of Islamic and secular concepts. For example in Dar es Salaam, when the Commissioner of Education in the Ministry of Education visited our schools he praised the long term proposal to degregate boys from girls and cited various examples of schools or colleges where segregation helped to produce better results.

The action points outlined above are some of the self-searching questions our Educational institutions should be asking.



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P.O. Box 40933, dar es Salaam. tel: 2862464/5. fax: 2862464. Cellular: 0741 327121 Email: ideal@raha.com

#### **Quality Computers Ltd.**

P.O. Box 77528, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2114872-5; Fax: 2125182 Email: sales@quality.co.tz

#### **Simply Computers**

P.O. Box 742, Dar es Salaam. tel: 2121601/2 Fax: 2121602 Sales; 0742 600 888/ 0742 778 999 Service: 0744 778 999 / 0741 778 999 Email: simply@raha.com

#### GLASS, WALL CLADING, CEILING AND ALUMINIUM CONTRACTORS

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#### Dar es Salaam Glass Works

P.O. Box 253, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2136499/2138819/2120203. Fax: 2120211.

#### Showmax Ltd.

P.O. Box 2699, Dar es Salaam Tel: 2865777/2865557/2865931/2865926 Fax: 2865556

Email: showmax@raha.com

#### APPLIANCES/FURNITURE

#### M.A.P. Hirji Enterprises

Dealers in home appliances and office furniture. Also deal in branded computer accessories and in upgrading PCs. P.O. Box 680, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2111158; Cell: 0741 605418 Email: maphirji@raha.com

#### LAB/PHOTO EQUIPMENT

#### Kenya Lab O Equip

P.O. Box 45036, Nairobi. Tel: 334581

#### Geo-Micro and Photo Equipment Ltd.

P.O. Box 1456, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2123433

Cell: 0742 781456/ 0742 601529.

Fax: 2118713.

Email: savansi@ecexnit.com

#### AIR CONDITIONERS/FRIDGES SPLIT UNITS /TVS ETC.

#### Al Shaaf Bargain Center Ltd.

P.O. Box 1931. Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2114114/2118989/2117309. Fax: 2113002.

#### **CAR SECURITY SYSTEMS**

#### **MPPS Piranha Centre**

Car Security Systems and Accessories P.O. Box 31347, Nairobi. Tel: 533370/532913/533467. Fax: 533369

Email: mpps@swiftkenya.com

Advertise in the Samachar Classifieds. Its only TShs 30,000/- or equivalent per insertion.

#### BRIDEGROOM/ BRIDE WANTED

The Samachar Classifieds offers community boys or girls WORLD-WIDE to send in their offers for marriage. Names do not need to be supplied.

A typical message would read:

'Tall/short boy/girl/widow living in .... of fair/dark complexion (Age:X) seeks smart and religious partner for marriage.'

Contact telephone, email or postal box numbers should be availed. Such contact numbers can also be of trusted friends or family members.

#### **MATRIMONIAL**

A wedding is a wonderful family occasion, a reason to celebrate the start of a couple's new life as well as the joining together of two families. Announce a wedding in your family to the world through the Classifieds. A typical message would read:

'The family of .... is pleased to announce the wedding of their son to .... the daughter of ..... that took place on.....' or alternatively, "The wedding took place of ....., son of .... to ....daughter of......'

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

I/we wish to advertise in the classifieds section of the Federation Samachar. Pertinent details follow:

Samachar Classifieds P.0. Box 6710 Dar es Salaam.

Name:	•		14
Business/P	ersonal d	etails	:
Full Addre.	SS:		
Message (	not more	than	three
lines):			
Number of	insertions	s:	y

#### **CATEGORY:**

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#### ARCHITECTS

#### Sumar Varma & Associates

P.o. Box 486, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2117152 / 2117173

Fax: 111800

Email: sumar@cats-net.com

#### IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS

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Tel: 2111539 / 2112903 / 237785 / 222834 / 222976 / 222798. Fax: 2118702. Zanaki

Tel: 2842530 / 2843186 Vingunguti Tel: 2863595 / 2865243, Pugu Road,

#### **Fourteen Stars**

Dealers in imported sundries, hardware, textiles, electronic tems, merchandise and sole importers of JAFF's Basmati rice. P.O. Box 1017, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2152010.

#### Tanzania General Services Ltd.

Importers of household goods, sundries and hardware.

P.O. Box 1220, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2122640, 2120896, 0742 6024444 Fax: 2116593.

Email: teeges@raha.com

#### PAINT SUPPLIES

#### **Gold Star Paints**

P.O. Box 4509, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2181500 / 2181506; Fax: 2181593

Email: star-tz@raha.com

#### **Robbialac Paints**

P.O. Box 341, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2860360/1, 2863567, 2864378. Email:

#### National Paints Tanzania Ltd.

Agent for Master Paints P.O. Box 7286, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2180533.

#### TRAVEL

#### Takims Holiday Tours & Safaris Ltd.

P.O. Box 20350, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2110346/7/8/2130037 Fax: 2116659/2116660 Email: takims@twiga.com Arusha: Tel: 2508026/2504630.

Fax: 2508211.

#### Skylink Travel & Tours Ltd.

P.O. Box 21338, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2115381.

Mobile: 0742 604233/ 601351/ 603109 0741 325209/ 323152

Fax: 2112786 / 2181866 / 2114562

Airport Branch Office: Telephone and Fax: 2842738

Mobile: 0741 540881

Email: skylink@cats-net.com

Website: http://www.cats-net.com/skylink

#### Jumbo Travel Services Limited

P.O. Box 20392, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2121250/2121252

Fax: 2116566

Email: jambo@simbanet.net

#### World Link Travel & Tours Ltd.

P.O. Box 7916, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2116024/25/26

Fax: 2128728

Email: worldlink@raha.com

#### Moshi Branch:

P.O. Box 958, Moshi. Tel: 2754338/ 2752296

Fax: 2752296

Email: worldlink@raha.com

#### Mwanza Branch:

P.O. Box 157, Mwanza. Tel: 2503375/2500214

Fax: 2503375

Email: worldlink.mwz@mbio.net

#### Vintage Holidays

P.O. Box 5182, Dar es Salaam. tel: 2116023; Fax: 2115162 Email: vintage@raha.com

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Tel: 2137049.

Email: zpd@cats-net.com

#### **Emslies Travel Ltd.**

P.O. Box 6684, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2114065 Fax: 2113972.

Email: emslies@raha.com

#### Safari Travel Kenya Ltd.

P.O. Box 31120, Nairobi.

Tel: 222290/1.

Fax: 222266.

Email: info@safaritravel.com

#### **PRINTERS & STATIONERS**

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P.O. Box 6672, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2114967. Fax: 211025.

Dar es Salaam Printers Ltd.

P.O. Box 845, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2121836/2121989/2131616.

Masumin Printways & Stationers Ltd.

P.O. Box 20073, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2117090 / 2117358 / 213344. Fax: 2117357, Cell: 0741 325488. Email: ashik@cats-net.com

Colour Print Tanzania Limited

P.O. Box 76006, Dar es Salaam Tel: 0741 276 651 / 0742 611070 Email: colourprint@tzcolourprint.com

The Best School & Office Supplies Ltd.

14 Sikukuu Street / Msimazi Street P.O. Box 662, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2184025.

Sajjad Enterprises

P.O. Box 2269, Mombasa. Tel: 011 220089, 314842, 316589,

224284. Fax: 011 224284.

*Branch:* P.O. Box 27747, Nairobi, Tel: 02 577511-3, 351861

Fax: 02 577514

Email: sajjad.enterprises@arccweb.zzn.com Retail Outlet: Al Ghadeer Enterprises P.O. Box 3445, Nairobi. Shop No. 31, Bishan Plaza, Mpaka Road, Westlands.

Tel: 744142, 740348.

Fax: 740348.

#### BUILDING MATERIALS, HARD-WARE, ELECTRICAL, MOTOR SPARES ETC.

**Union Magazine Limited** 

Dealers in hardware, electrical and building materials.

P.O. Box 1062, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2120710/2129129/2132992/2120185.

Abid Auto Spares Ltd.

Dealers in motor spares& accessories for Peugeot and VWs.

P.O. Box 32596, Nairobi.

Kirinyaga Road:

Tel: 337829/226182; Fax: 340262

Dunga Road, Industrial Area:

Tel: 537364/5

Email: abid@net2000ke.com.

Amafhh Auto Spares Ltd.

Kirinyaga Road P.O. Box 31643, Nairobi. Tel: 212510/212795

Fax: 212682

Email: mpirmohamed@net2000ke.com

Spare Centre & Agencies Ltd.

Kirinyaga Road

Tel: 224889; Fax: 224889.

Impala Auto Supplies Ltd.

Dealers in motor spares & accessories for Peugeot, VW, Audi, Land and Range Rovers. P.O. Box 83735, Mombasa.

Maungano Road:

Tel: 221505/312778/316317; Fax: 225533.

Jomo Kenyatta Avenue:

Tel: 492753/495124

Email: impala-msa@net2000ke.com

Crystal Auto Spares

Dunga Road, Industrial Area P.O. Box 60076, Nairobi. Tel: 559751/554417; Fax: 556405.

Geela Auto Spares

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Tel: 221840, 222346.; Fax: 711355.

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Specialist in spare parts for Peugeot, VW, land Rover, Opel, Range Rover, Mercedez Benz and Nissan/Datsun.

P.O. Box 46325, Nairobi.

Tom Mboya Street

Tel: 220457/331830/331254/226704/229706/

340041/225634.

Fax: 337177/338552/212211.

Kirinyaga Road:

Tel: 227307/337046/340472

Dar es Salaam Road:

Tel: 534565/530306

Email: impala@form-net.com

Telex: 22713 ABBAS.

**Ironside Auto Spares** 

Quarry Road, Ngara

P.O. Box 33031, Nairobi.

Tel: 766498/765993/766491.

Fax: 715977

Email: ironside@iconnect.co.ke

Nachi Auto Parts

Kirinyaga Road

P.O. Box 31415, Nairobi

Tel: 230654/245110/215672.

Fax: 245115

Email: aniskaz@nbnet.co.ke

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Spare parts for all kinds of Japanese Cars

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Racecourse Road,

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For genuine Isuzu, Mitsubisihi, Toyota, Mazda, KIA, Hyundai, Daewoo, Ssangyong

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Tel: 2122198/2127086

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Multi Distributors Ltd.

dealers in all types of Land rover, Isizu and Toyota spares. Specialised in all types of batteries, oil/diesel filters, tyres and agents for general tyres.

P.O. Box 6940, Dar es Salaam.

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Eye Clinic

Tel: 2122218 (City Centre)

Tel: 2700841 (Shoppers Plaza)

Email: optimec@raha.com

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Tel: 2182071/2182075/2182076/2183219

Fax: 2180281

Cell: 0742 612900

Email: pharmed@cats-net.com

The Pharmacy

Duka la Madawa

P.O. Box 786, Dar es Salaam.

Tel: 2121487; Fax: 2115239

Email: pharmacy@intafrica.com

Dar es Salaam Optical Company Ltd.

P.O. Box 742, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 2130773/2111598

Genius Pharmaceuticals

P.O. Box 1895, Dar es Salaam.

Eastleigh Optical House

Tel: 2118972.

P.o. Box 14388, Nairobi

Tel: 763988/340707; Fax: 441757

Email: nazerali@nbnet.co.ke

**Tima Opticals Limited** 

P.O. Box 62956, Nairobi.

Tel: 750107/741847. Fax: 750107

Federation Samachar



#### Dear Children.

This page is for you to read and contribute to by way of short stories, articles, puzzles, jokes etc. Presently we have only one page in the *Samachar* for you but if there is an active response we will consider increasing the number of pages for children.

In this issue we have a rather simple prize puzzle and have a short story explaining the existence of Allah (s.w.t.) plus a few jokes. Read the story, enjoy the jokes and make sure you send in your entry of the prize puzzle by 30th September, 2001.

#### PRIZE ESSAY - 'My favourite teacher'

Cash prizes of Shs. 25,000/- will be awarded to the best two entries received before the deadline of 30th September, 2001. The subject to be written on is **My Favourite Teacher**.

Teachers are a symbol of learning and ethics. They guide you through life in your tender years. They may scold you, command you but yet inspire you. However there are some teachers who stand above the rest because of their devotion and personal involvement in the progress of children.

Others are ordinary teachers who opt to treat their occupations like a normal job whereby they narrate relevant information to children without really trying to find out whether or not the material they teach is adequately comprehended by the children they teach.

Then there are a few negligent teachers who enjoy unduly dominating children and who miss out on attendance.

In your essay write about what you consider are the ideal qualities of a good teacher. Include unfulfilled expectations that you have from teachers and also cite personal examples if necessary.

Your essay should be sent in to:

The Prize Essay, Federation Samachar, P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam.

Originality should be maintained. Your essay should not exceed 500 words and must not be less than 350 words.

#### Getting a taste of one's own medicine

Abu Hanifa was once teaching Islamic beliefs to his students. He argued and challenged the validity of some of the statements proclaimed by Imam Ja far al-Sadiq (a.s.). Bahlool happened to be present as well. Abu Hanifa proclaimed that he could not agree with the three understated statements as made by the Imam.

The first one was that Allah can never be seen. According to Abu Hanifa it was impossible for a thing to exist and yet be invisible!

The second statement that the Imam had stated was that Satan (devil) will be thrown in the inferno of Hell which will scorch him bitterly. Abu Hanifa argued: How was it possible for fire to hurt fire, the fact that Satan was created from fire itself!

The third statement of the Imam was that Man alone is responsible for his actions and Allah - the most powerful - has nothing to do with his actions. How is it possible, when Allah alone guides the destiny of man without whose will nothing can happen? This

was Abu Hanifa s third challenge.

After Abu Hanifa made these three criticisms, Bahlool got up, took a piece of brick and aiming at Hanifa, let it go and cracked Abu Hanifa head.

Bahlool was caught and taken before the Caliph for punishment. In his defence, he pleaded that he had done nothing else except reply to the three criticisms which Abu Hanifa had made against the Imam.

The Caliph asked him to explain as to how and why he chose to reply by hitting and injuring Abu Hanifa. Bahlool said, This man claims that if God is there, then he must be seen. He is now complaining of pain in his head due to the brick having hurt him. If the pain is definitely there, can he show me where it is? Well! just as pain can be there without being seen Allah also exists without being seen.

Secondly, he says that fire cannot burn fire. It is a fact that man is made out of clay and this brick with which I hit his head is also made out of clay. If clay can inflict pain and hurt clay, why

can t fire do the same to fire?

The third thing he says is that man is not responsible for his own actions but Allah does all things. If this is so, then why does he want justice from you and why does he want me to be punished for hurting him? He might as well transfer the punishment to Allah Who, according to him - is responsible for all the actions of man!

Everyone in the court was stunned at this and Abu Hanifa was dumb founded and Bahlool was released without any punishment.

Allah (s.w.t.) is the Creator of everything; He was not created and as such he has no body like us to be seen. If we know of unseen things like air, electricity and human souls, why can t we believe in the unseen God?

If we are responsible for our actions and are to be punished or rewarded accordingly, then it is only fair and just that Allah (s.w.t.) should not manipulate or compel us to do things but leave us to act independently and be answerable for our own actions.

### Panshop Polemics of Phua & Phida

By Abu Faiyyaz

#### An Exhibition of Scorpions

Phida: These embassywallas! Three hours I had to spend Phua: Aha! An Exhibition!! Talking about exhibitions in the queue

Phua: Where are you going?

Phida: I am going for Umrah. We are staying at the Hilton in Mecca and at the Oberoi in Madina

**Phua:** A five star Umrah eh! But I still don t get it. Why arc you packing a suit and a tie? They don t wear suits in Mecca or Madina, even at the Hilton!.

Phida: Phua, after Umrah I am going to Tehran to attend the JIBA meeting.

**Phua:** Jeebhaa? What is Jeebhaa?

Phida: Instead of reading Garvi Gujerat and Chakram, if you read Federation Samachar then you would know that JIBA means Jaffery International Business Association.

Phua: International Business Association eh! So what international business are you going to conduct then?

Phida: This is a forum of the best business brains in the community. We shall discuss all kinds of things like consortiums, group buying, investment groups, technology transfer, information technology, banking and finance, import and export opportunities

Phua: Bus .. Bus .. You seem to have swallowed the whole of yesterday s edition of the Wall Street Journal or what?

Phida: And 1, Phua, am going to present a paper on franchises.

Phua: And what is a franchise?

Phida: It is a network of shops independently owned but all sharing the same name and identity It is the way to go into retailing these days.

Phua: So there will be business people sitting around the table trading with each other. Like the sokoni with an English name. huh.

Phida: Have you ever heard of the expression frogs in a well? You really are limited by your imagination, aren t you Phua. This is a business forum where we will discuss ideas and concepts and economic trends. There will also be an exhibition to encourage inter-community trade.

reminds me of a story

Phida: Phua, you have a story about exhibitions?

Phua: There was this exhibition of scorpions. Different communities had been asked to exhibit the best-bred scorpions in the land. People brought scorpions from east, west, south, the north of the country. Some were large, some were small, and some were average size. Some were dark in colour, some were a bluish hue and some even had green spots. Some were hairy .

Phida: Get to the point, Phua. At this rate I will be here all night.

Phua: Sabr Kun! All the scorpions were kept in large glass jars. As the judges toured around looking at them they came across one jar, which was different. All the other jars had covers to keep them in except this one, which had come from the south of the country

Phida: I suppose the there was no southern scorpions left by the time the judges reached their jar!!

Phua: Not quite. They were all there.

**Phida:** I don t get it. How can that be possible?

Phua: That is exactly what the judges asked.

Phida: And???

**Phua:** They were told that the jar needed no cap because as soon as one scorpion tried to climb out the others would pull it back. Thus, none of the scorpions in the jar could get out. The kept each other in.

Phida: I still don t get it. Phua, your stories are as tangled as the legs of those scorpions.

**Phua:** It couldn t be simpler. If we pull each other back like these scorpions then we will never progress despite having the best business brains. So when you present your paper about franchises please tell them this simple story from an old man. If, however, we help each other out of this proverbial jar we will Inshallah, flourish. By the way, I have an idea of a thriving franchise business.

**Phida:** Now you are talking. What is it?

**Phua:** An international franchise of fast food pan shops called **Phua s Pans** so you can buy standardized pans all the way from Karachi to Vancouver Now that is what I call moving with the times.

# A lot of money can spell doom...



.. if it isn't effectively managed.

Entrust us with your financial transactions and we'll make sure you don't loose out on your hard earned money

### MC\$OMS Bureau de Change

P.O Box 4504, Dar es salaam. Tel: 2113428. Fax: 2113069.

